

ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE DECCAN

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TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

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PONDICHERRY

PRINTED BY THE AUTHOR
6, DINAKAR STREET.

1920

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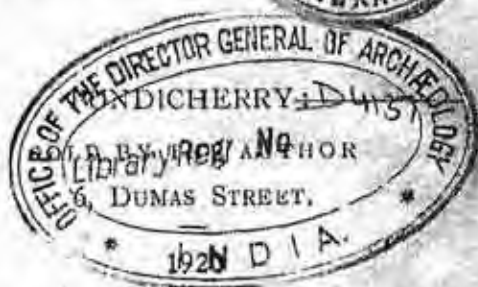
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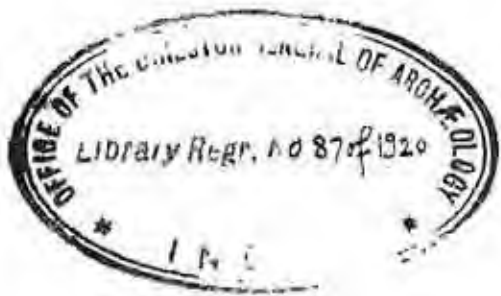
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ABBREVIATIONS.

- A. D. Anno Domini (After Christ).
- A. S. W. I. Archaeological Survey Western India.
- B. C. Before Christ.
- Ep. Carn. Epigraphia Carnatica (Rice).
- Ep. Ind. Epigraphia Indica, Calcutta.
- Ind. Ant. Indian Antiquary, Bombay.
- J. B. B. R. A. S. Journal of the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.
- J. R. A. S. Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.
- Lüders's list. List of inscriptions in Ep. Ind. Vol. X.
- Rapson, Catalogue of the coins of the Andhra dynasty, the Western Ksatrapas, etc, in the British Museum, by Prof. Rapson, London.





INTRODUCTION

India may be divided into two parts, the North and the South. From the remotest times, this division has been adopted by the Indians who have given the name of Dakshina (Dakshinâpatha) or 'The South' to all the Country that extends from the Narbadâ to the extremity of the peninsula. In this work, we shall use the word Deccan to designate the ancient Dakshina, but with this little restriction, that the three Southernmost kingdoms of Chôla, Chêra and Pândya, which have always remained a little isolated, shall be excluded. We shall therefore call "The Deccan" the large tract of country which is bounded on the north by the Narbadâ and the Mahanadi, on the east by the Bay of Bengal, on the west by the Arabian Sea, on the south by the Nilgiri Hills and the Southern Peppâr (which reaches the sea near Cuddalore and which is the northern boundary of the Chôla country according to the poetess Auvaiyâr).

We have limited our subject in extent; let us now proceed to fix a time-limit for it. "Ancient History of the Deccan" means for us "the history of the Deccan in ancient times" and

the words "ancient times" denotes the 9 centuries extending from 261 B. C. to about 610 A. D., that is to say, from Aśoka to Pulakēśin II. In fact, we have no historical document anterior to Aśoka; and so we shall begin our history from the time of this king, about 261 B. C. (the Kalinga war). On the other hand, from the time of Pulakēśin II, about 610 A. D. we have a large number of historical documents and the history of the Deccan is mostly known. It is therefore this historic period between 261 B. C. and 610 A. D. that is denoted by the words, "Deccan in Ancient times" and that we are going to study in this work.

The only book in which we find some information on their subject is the "Bombay Gazetteer" Vol. I. Part II (1896) which contains two works: "Early History of the Deccan" by R. G. Bhandarkar and "Dynasties of the Kanarese Districts" by J. F. Fleet. This book is well-known and there is no need to praise it here. But to-day it has one defect: it is twenty-five years old and during this last quarter of a century numerous discoveries have been made and "The Bombay Gazetteer" Vol. I. Part II. is not at all "up to date". Besides, this book itself does not contain, strictly speaking, the history of the Deccan in ancient times. The portion concerning the ancient times is very succinct, for, in 1896, the number of documents concerning it was small. Moreover, the Bombay Presidency does not by itself constitute the whole of the Deccan.

We may therefore say that today the History of the Deccan is quite a new subject. The student who wishes to know what was the History of the Deccan between 261 B. C. and 610 A. D. does not know what books to consult. This history is lost in obscurity. Still it is not the documents that are wanting; for the dynasty of the Kadambas alone, we have about thirty copper-plates. We have also plenty of information about the Pallavas and the Gangas. Why then is the chronology of these dynasties so mysterious? I thought that what was wanted most at the present time was to arrange the parts and make a whole work of it; I thought that a complete and attentive study of all the documents we actually possess will throw a flood of light on the darkness, bring order out of chaos and, in short, give birth to, what we have not had up to

the present, the Ancient History of the Deccan.

Such a study is very important, as it is the history of nine glorious centuries of this large country. The documents that we have concerning the Deccan of the ancient times enable us to conclude that all this period was one of high civilisation and historical celebrity. We shall see that during the epoch of Asôka, the Deccan was not at all uncivilised. The art of writing was known a long time before it and the inscriptions of Asôka were read and understood very well at that time. From a military point of view, the Deccan was never more powerful than at the time of Śatavahis who, without doubt, succeeded many times in vanquishing the kings of the northern countries and annexing a part of their territories. From a sculptural point of view, the Deccan, like the North, was inspired by the Greek and Roman arts and the marbles of Amarâvati can be compared to the sculptures of Gandhara. If now we consider the monuments, the Deccan is much superior to the North. If we compare the ancient monuments of Northern and Southern India we find that the North is relatively poor. In the Deccan there is a very large number of sculptured rocks at Udayagiri, Junnar, Ellora, Nâsik, Kâgheri etc. And speaking only of the chief of them, which are the monuments in the north that will bear comparison with the grand Chaitya at Kârlî that is equal in its dimensions to the Gothic Cathedrals, or with the monasteries of Ajantâ with their marvellous painting? There is, it is true, the great Stûpa at Sâñchi, but this monument is in Bhilsa near Deccan; it may even be considered a monument of the Deccan, since its balustrade, which is the cause of all its celebrity has been sculptured, as is evident from an inscription, by the workmen of one Śatavahî, that is to say, a king of the Deccan. Writing the history of the Deccan therefore means writing the history of the most remarkable monuments of India.

If we look at a map we find that the Deccan is an immense country, almost one half of India. If we examine the monuments, we shall have the certainty that this country has enjoyed a high degree of civilisation and if we bear in mind that the history of the Deccan in ancient times is the history of nine glorious centuries, we cannot but conclude that this history is well worth studying and that it must come out of the

almost complete obscurity in which it has remained up to the present day.

This book is up to date as far as the documents available in India up to the end of 1919 are concerned.

CHAPTER I.

THE EARLY KINGS

§ 1. Aśoka.

One of the well-known events in the history of Aśoka is the conquest of Kalinga which probably took place about 261 B. C. and it is not astonishing to find an inscription of Aśoka at Dhauli. This town situated in the delta of the Mahānadi is in all probability the ancient Tosali, capital of the kingdom of Kalinga; for, according to Mr. Haraprashad Sastri, Tosali is etymologically identical with Dhauli. It is not more astonishing that there is another inscription at Jaugada (Ganjam District, Madras Presidency), as this place certainly formed part of the kingdom of Kalinga (concerning the Kalinga edicts, see *Ind. Ant.*, Vol V, pp. 82-102; see also *Arch. Surv. Southern India, Amarāvati*, by Burgess, pp. 114-25).

The discovery of an inscription at Sopārā (Thānā District, Bombay Presidency) near Bombay, has proved that the north-west of the Deccan as well as the north-east where Kalinga is situated has been under the domination of Aśoka. But the discovery, in 1892, of the inscriptions of Aśoka near Siddāpura, in Mysore, which have immortalised the name of Mr. Rice, has caused very great surprise. They did not, in fact, think that the empire of Aśoka extended up to the southernmost part of the Deccan. One very important point in the history of India was thus well established. So, the discovery, (see *Hyderabad Archæological Series No 1*) only a few years ago, of an

inscription at Māsiki (Lingsugur Taluq, Raichur District) in the State of Hyderabad has caused no surprise.

The Siddāpura edicts (near Brahmagiri, in Molakālmuru taluk; see Ep. Carn. Vol. XI, MK, 21, 14, 34, and Mysore and Coorg from inscriptions by Mr. Rice, page 11; see also Fleet, J. R. A. S., for 1903, page 829 and J. R. A. S., for 1904, pages 1 and 355) present certain peculiarities which have been pointed out by Bühler and especially "the particular uncouth form of "ma" with its abnormally large upper limbs" (which re-occurs in the inscriptions on the crystal prism from the Bhaṭṭi-prōlu stūpa, Ep. Ind. Vol. III, page 135). These details are very important. One is indeed led to believe that the edicts were engraved by the emissaries of Aśōka who came from the north, but that the people of those distant countries, where the edicts were published, understood very little of those inscriptions that were written in a language and an alphabet almost unknown to them. We may also suppose that at the time of Aśōka the people of Mysore were almost savages. On the contrary, the Siddāpura inscriptions prove that South India had a special alphabet which Bühler has called "Drāviḍi" and that the art of writing was known many centuries before Aśōka, for, in the III century B.C. the alphabet of the South has had time to vary from that of the North. Besides, the special alphabet used in the Siddāpura inscriptions proves that the edicts of Aśōka were engraved by some Southerners who must therefore have understood the language of Aśōka and attained as high a degree of civilisation as the northerners.

It is almost certain that Aśōka led only one expedition, that to Kalinga. But how did the rest of the Deccan come under his domination? It is to be supposed that, at the accession of Aśōka, the whole of the Deccan except Kalinga was already in the possession of the Mauryas. There are also, in Mysore, certain legends about the Mauryan king Chandragupta (see "Mysore and Coorg from inscriptions" by Mr. Rice). We may also suppose that the rest of the Deccan quietly submitted on hearing of the conquest of Kalinga. Be it as it may, it is certain that the whole of the Deccan was under the suzerainty of Aśōka and that, consequently, the political unity of India was a *fait accompli*, twenty-two centuries ago.

§ 2. Kubéra of Bhāṭṭiprōlu.

In the year 1892, Mr. A. Rea deposited in the Madras Museum six large stones of the caskets that he had discovered in the centre of the dome of the stūpa at Bhāṭṭiprōlu (Repallē taluk, Guntūr District) near the mouth of the Kṛishṇā (see G. O., 18th June 1892, No. 423). These inscriptions were written in an alphabet which Bühler (page 39 of the Appendix of Ind. Ant. Vol. XXXIII) considers to be very old: "immediately after Aśoka or about B. C. 200" (see J. R. A. S., 1892, p. 602. "A new variety of the Southern Maurya Alphabet by G. Bühler"). One of these inscriptions (No. 1338 of Lüders's List) says that "at that time, Kubiraka (Kubéraka) was king" (see Bühler, Ep. Ind. Vol. II, p. 323).

We know nothing more about this king Kubéra; we do not know the name of the dynasty to which he belonged and the extent of his kingdom.

§ 3. Khāravela of Kalinga.

The Udayagiri hill is situated nineteen miles south of Cuttack in Orissa. The Jains have cut many caves there. One of them called Hātigumphā contains a famous inscription which has been decently copied and studied only in 1917 (See Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society, Vol. III, December 1917, pp. 425-507)

This inscription dated the 165th year of "rāja-muriyakāle" which corresponds to the 13th year of the reign of Khāravela, king of Kalinga, gives us very valuable information about the reign of this king. He belongs to the Cheta dynasty; he vanquished Śātakarṇi and forced Bahapati, king of Rājagriha to flee to Mathurā. Besides, the inscriptions in the Manchhapuri cave (see Ep. Ind. Vol. XIII, p. 159, No. 13) mention (insc. No. I) the chief queen of Khāravela who was the daughter of King Lālaka, the grandson of Hastisāha (insc. No. II), the king of Kalinga Kūdēpasiri and (insc. No. III) the prince Vaḍukha.

The date 165 will be of very great value if we knew exactly the origin of the era that has been employed; unfortunately we have to remain content with a supposition; it is however probable that this era dates from the coronation of Chandragupta and in that case the year 165 will correspond to 157 B.C.

The reading and the translation of the Khāravela inscription as given by Messrs. R. D. Banerji and K. P. Jayaswal, is open to some criticism; Mr. R. C. Majumdar (Ind. Ant. Vol. XLII, Aug. 1918, pp. 223 and 224) has contested many of these conclusions (see also: "Khāravela" by Ramāprasād Chanda in J. R. A. S., July 1919, page 395). However, Mr. Vincent A. Smith (J. R. A. S. for 1918, page 543, "New light on Ancient India") has admitted that king Bahapati can be identified with Pushyamitra and with Bahasatimitra of the coins and inscriptions, and he places the epoch of Pushyamitra in about 160 B. C.

The synchronism of Śātakarṇi and Khāravela with Pushyamitra is enough, by itself, to establish approximately the date of the ancient kings of the Deccan.

§ 4. The earliest Śātavāhana kings.

No. 1. Śātakarṇi of Nānāghāt.— Nānāghāt is a defile (the Nana pass) in the mountains to the east of Bombay. There is here a chamber cut in the rock to serve probably as a place of shelter for travellers. The walls of this cave contain inscriptions (No. 1112 of Lüders's list in *Ep. Ind.* Vol. X) and further there are remnants of some bas-reliefs representing certain personages. These bas-reliefs contain explanatory legends (Nos. 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118 of Lüders's list). From these inscriptions Bühler (*A. S. W.* 1., Vol. V, p. 66) has drawn the following conclusions: Śātakarṇi, king of Dakṣiṇapatha and son of Simuka of the Śātavāhana dynasty gained many victories and performed the horse-sacrifice (Aśvamedha) twice. After his death, his wife Nāganikā daughter of Mahārathi [Tra]nakayiro [Kaṣa] lāya, the scion of the Angira family, was proclaimed regent during the minority of the princes, the elder called Vedisri and the younger Śakti-Śri (Sati-Srimat) or Haku-Śri. Here we have to note that an inscription at Nāsik (No. 1141 of Lüders's list) mentions the granddaughter of Mahāhakuśri (*Ep. Ind.* Vol. VIII, p. 91). As prince Hakuśri was but a child at the time when the Nānāghāt inscriptions were written and his granddaughter was an elderly woman at the time of the Nāsik inscription (her son Kapaṇaka was probably a man at this time) the two Haku-Śris may be identified with each other by supposing that there was an interval of about a century between the two inscriptions. The palæography of the inscriptions seems in fact to indicate nearly this difference in age.

The alphabet of the inscriptions in the Nānāghāt cave seems almost to belong to the same epoch as that of the Khāravēla inscription; and all the authors have admitted the possibility of identifying Śātakarṇi of Nānāghāt with the one mentioned in the Khāravēla inscription.

No. 2. *Krishṇa of Nāsik*.— In Nāsik there is a small cave which seems to be the most ancient of all this group of excavations that are found in this place. An inscription (No. 1144 of Lüders's list and Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII, p. 93) tells us that it was caused to be made by an inhabitant of Nāsik in the time of Rājan Kāṇha (*Krishṇa*) of the Śātavāhana family. The alphabet of this inscription is analogous to that of the Nānāghaṭ and Udayagiri inscriptions.

We must mention here that according to the Purāṇas the dynasty of the Āndhras (Śātavāhanas) was founded by a king name Śīśuka, who had as his successors his brother *Krishṇa* and a third king called Śātakarṇi. The name Śīśuka is possibly a modified form of the name Simuka that we find in Nānāghaṭ, that his brother *Krishṇa* was he of Nāsik and that Śātakarṇi was the one of Nānāghaṭ.

No. 3. *Śātakarṇi of Sāñchi*.— The grand Stūpa at Sāñchi which dates from Aśoka has been restored and embellished at different times. The most interesting part of it is undoubtedly the balustrade which has four magnificently ornamented gateways. The oldest of them (Archæological Survey of India; Report for 1913-1914, page 6) is the one in the south. It is also the only one that contains an inscription in which the name of a king is mentioned and this name, strange to say, is Śātakarṇi. This inscription says, in fact, that an image is due to the sculptor of the great king Śātakarṇi. Unfortunately, this name has been borne by a great number of Śātavāhana kings. We are however glad to have the certainty that this dynasty extended its empire up to Bhilsā, namely the antique Vidiśa, and that it was precisely under this dynasty that one of the most celebrated monuments of India was sculptured. The inscription has been reproduced only in fac-simile in Cunningham's "Bhilsā Topes" where it figures as No. 190. Bühler has formed the following judgment (Ep. Ind. Vol. II, p. 88) on the characters of the inscription: "they are almost identical with those of the Nānāghaṭ inscriptions, and differ only slightly from the type of the characters of Aśoka times."

There can therefore be no question of identifying this Śātakarṇi with the later king Gautamiputra though this king probably reigned not far from Śāñchi. The characters of our inscription are much too archaic. We cannot also identify this Śātakarṇi with those of the Udayagiri or Nānāghāt inscriptions, for it was Pushyamitra that reigned at Bhilsā at this time. When, then, did Śātakarṇi of Śāñchi reign? It is probable that Bhilsā, which was under the Mauryas passed directly into the hands of the Śungas. It was the capital of the viceroy Agnimitra. We are sure (Archaeological Survey of India Report for 1908-1909, page 127) that later on Kāṁsi-putra-Bhāgabhadra was the king of Vidiśa (Bhilsā) and a contemporary of Antialkidas. If the Besnagar inscriptions, to which we allude, mean by Kāsi-putra Bhāgabhadra the 9th Śunga king, there is no doubt that Bhilsā remained in the possession of this dynasty till the 10th king, Devabhūmi, the successor of Bhāgavata (Bhāgabhadra) was murdered by Vasudēva Kāṁva.

It is not impossible that a Śātavāhana helped Vasudēva in his usurpation and so appropriated the country of Bhilsā to himself. It must have taken place about 72 B. C. Besides, it is very probable that the Śakas invaded northern India in the middle of the 1st century before our era; it is possible that this great conquest took place about 58 B. C.; at this epoch the Śātavāhanas would have been driven not only from Bhilsā but also out of Mahārāṣṭra. There is therefore room to think that the Śātakarṇi who is mentioned on the Śāñchi gateway reigned at Bhilsā between 72 B. C. and 58 B. C. or in round figures from 70 to 60 B. C. I think that the alphabet of the inscription and the style of the sculpture accord with each other to justify this date.

The most ancient coins of the dynasty of Śātavāhanas have been found in western India and are of the type that Mr. Rapson calls Mālwa fabric and which he thinks is "connected with the early east and punch-marked coins of Eran" (see Rapson: "coins of Āndhra dynasty" page 1, Nos. 1 and 2). These coins represent an elephant and a river and bear the inscription "Sri Sata" We may think that this king reigned at an epoch which is very close to that of Śātakarṇi of Śāñchi.

CHAPTER II.

* THE ŚAKA PERIOD OF THE HISTORY OF THE DECCAN.

§ 1. The Kshaharātas.

To understand the history of the Deccan in the 1st century B. C. and the first two centuries A. D., we must know the history of the whole of India at this epoch; but that history is very uncertain even today; and we do not wish to force a theory upon our readers but intend only to set forth our personal opinion on this subject.

In the II century B. C. the Śaka tribe that came from the north entered into Northern India; from that time they were intimately connected with another tribe, the Parthians, and had close relationship with Persia. In the history of India, the names of Śakas, Pahlavas and Yavanas are mentioned simultaneously and denote those foreigners that came from the north-western frontier. It is probably about 100 B. C. that one of these princes reigned at Taxila under the name of Maues. Later on, about 60 B. C., Azes. I ascended the throne. This king probably had a long and glorious reign. It was perhaps in his time that the Parthians and the Sakas conquered almost the whole of northern India and a portion of the Deccan. When the Indo-Parthian kings Azes I, Azilises, Azes II, Gondopharnes were reigning over the Panjāb, the rest of the empire was governed by more or less independent princes who bore the title of Kshatrāpas and Mahākshatrapaa. In the province surrounding the Gulf of Cambay (Sūrāshtra,

Ujjain, Aparānta) there reigned the Śāka kings who were called Bhūmaka and Nahapāna. The Śākas called Hagāna, Hagā-māsha, Rājuvula, Śoḍāsa, Kharahostes and Kalni reigned at Mathurā in the valley of the Ganges. The Śākas (Bhūmaka, Nahapāna) that reigned over the country round the Gulf of Cambay (in Surāshtra, Ujjain and Northern Deccan) belonged to the same family as the Śākas (Rājuvula, Śoḍāsa) of Mathurā; this family was that of the Kshaharātas. In fact, the Nāsik inscriptions say that the Śākas who reigned in Northern Deccan belonged to the dynasty of the Kshaharātas and, they have discovered in 1910-1911 at Gaṇēshrā (3 miles west of Mathurā, in mound No. 2 (See J. R. A. S., year 1912, p. 122) a fragment of an inscription (fig. II, plate II) which contains clearly the word "Kshaharāta".

Professor Rapson, who discovered the existence of the name Bhūmaka on the coins, has written: "considerations of the type and fabric of the coins, and of the nature of the coin legends leave no room for doubting that Bhūmaka preceded Nahapāna" (Rapson, coins of the Āndhra dynasty, page CVIII). These coins bear as insignia, either "the arrow, discus and thunderbolt" or "the Lion capital and Dharmachakra." "The coins of Bhūmaka seem to supply an important link between the bronze coins of Nahapāna and those struck conjointly by the Pahlava Spalirises and the Śāka Azes" (J. R. A. S. for 1904, p. 372). The insignia 'Discus, Bow and Arrow' connect these coins with those of Azes I: "It may be compared (Rapson, page CVII) with the rev. type "Discus, Bow and Arrow" of certain copper coins struck conjointly by Spalitisez and Azes (Percy Gardner, B. M. cat., Greek and Scythic kings, Pl. XXII., 4; C. Nehr, 1890, Pl. VII, 13). On the other hand, the insignia Lion capital and Dharmachakra were those of the Kshaharātas of Mathurā; and in particular the Lion pillar of Mathurā is well known. We know that the Pahlava Spalirises and the Śāka Azes were kings of Arachosia and Sistān. Azes I reigned in the Panjāb and it would not be impossible that he founded the Vikrama era which begins in 58 B. C. ".....he (Azes I) was reigning in the third quarter of the first century B. C., while the probability that he may have founded an era is also suggested by the abundance of his coins, which denote his pre-eminence among the Śāka-

"Pahlava sovereigns" (J. R. A. S. for 1914, page 177—"The date of Kanishka" by J. H. Marshall). We may therefore place the reign of Bhūmaka approximately in the second quarter of the first century B. C. (50 to 25 B. C.)

The coins bearing the name "Nahapāna" that were rare at one time have become abundant since the discovery of a treasure containing 13250 coins at Joghalmehdi, near Nāsik (see J. B. B. R. A. S. Vol. XXII, Art. XVI, page 223). This discovery has made a complete study of it possible. It must first be noted that this coinage extends over a very long period of time. It is not possible to give the exact number of years but it is certainly very large. In fact, we may observe very clearly a certain "evolution" in the style of the coins. For instance, these coins contain two legends one in Greek and the other in Kharoshthi, but these two writings evolve inversely: when the legend in Kharoshthi is very legible, that in Greek is debased, and on the coins in which the Kharoshthi legend is debased the Greek legend is visible. Such an evolution can be produced only during a very large number of years. We know that with the lapse of time, Kharoshthi disappeared, little by little, from the coinage of India. (see J. R. A. S. for 1904, page 373.) Here I have to make another important remark. These coins bear an effigy which surely is not that of a single individual, since the nose is sometimes aquiline and sometimes straight. Further, the most ancient coins represent sometimes a young man, and sometimes an old man, as is the case also with the less ancient coins. "The Rev. H. R. Scott has pointed out that they exhibit an extraordinary diversity, not only in apparent age but also in features! They cannot possibly have been portraits, in the true sense of the word of, any single individual" (Rapson, page CX). What conclusions are we to draw from these remarks? We cannot say it exactly. It is possible that many kings called "Nahapāna" have reigned in succession. But we may also suppose that there were only one or two Nahapānas, but that, after them, they have continued to use their coinage for a long time. The latter hypothesis will explain the extraordinary diversity in the effigies; the most ancient coins bear the image of the Nahapāna that reigned at this epoch and the less ancient ones contain the image of some figure made to vary according to the fancy

of the coiner.

The coins struck in the name of Nahapāna resemble much those of king Rājūvula (see the plate facing the page 630 of J. R. A. S. for 1913). This is quite natural as Nahapāna and Rājūvula both belong to the Kshaharāta dynasty. But there is an epigraphical detail which proves well the relationship that exists between the coinages of the two branches of this very Kshaharāta dynasty: "..... the letter H found on a coin of Kharahostes and on some of those of Nahapāna....." (J. R. A. S., 1913, page 1013). Concerning the origin of this letter H we shall be content with giving here the opinion of Mr. Thomas (J. R. A. S., 1913, page 1013, note): "I think this H to be not Roman, but Aramaic (it is no accident that it is found only on Śaka-Pahlava coins)".

The coins bearing the name of Nahapāna contain the insignia "thunderbolt" and "arrow". Mr. Vincent A. Smith has written ("Early History of India," 3rd. Edition, page 218): "The arrow and thunderbolt of Nahapāna's coins connect him with the Parthians and the Northern Satraps Hagāna and Hagāmāsha (see Cat. coins in I. M., Vol. I., page 195)". And Nahapāna is a good old Persian name (J. R. A. S. for 1906, p. 211, No. 17.)

A Kshaharāta king named Nahapāna is found mentioned in several inscriptions engraved on the rock-cut excavations in Mahārāshtra, viz. at Kārli, Nāsik and Junnar. These inscriptions say that the daughter of Nahapāna named Dakshamitrā, married a Śaka (Ep. Ind, Vol. VIII, p. 85) called Ushavadāta (Rishabadatta) son of Dinika (inscriptions Nos. 1132 and 1134 of Lüders's list.) This princess and her husband made numerous gifts to the Buddhist monks and had many rock-cut monasteries dug for them. Some of these grants were made at Pokhara (Ajmer) and at Ujēni (Ujjain) which proves that the dominion of Nahapāna extended over an immense empire comprising Guzarāt (Kutch, Surāshtra, etc.), a part of Rājputānā, Mālwa (Ujjain) and all the northwestern part of the Deccan (Mahārāshtra).

We may often estimate the greatness of empires by the beauty of their monuments. It is therefore probable that the reign of Nahapāna was very glorious, as some of the monuments constructed during his reign are among the most

splendid in India. One of these is the Buddhist temple cut in the rock at Kārli, the immense nave of which equals in grandeur that of the Gothic churches. It is noteworthy that the monuments containing the inscriptions of Nahapāna (at Junnar, Kārli, Nāsik) are all in the same style. This style resembles much that of the balustrade of the grand stupa at Sāñchi. We have already said that this balustrade was probably begun between 70 B. C. and 60 B. C. It must certainly have taken a sufficiently long time to build, for, the style of the sculptures shows that the gateways may be arranged chronologically in the following order: (1) Southern, (2) Northern, (3) Eastern (+) Western, (Archæological Survey of India; Report for 1913-14, page 9.) It is therefore probable that most of the sculptures of Sāñchi date from 50. B. C. to I. A. D. and that the monuments containing the inscriptions of Nahapāna have been sculptured shortly before the beginning of our era.

Many of these inscriptions are dated; we have at Nāsik (No. 1133 of Lüders's list) the years 41, 42 and 45. At Junnar an inscription (No. 1174 of Lüders's list) that records a grant of Ayama (Aryaman), minister of Nahapāna, give us the date 46. A reign of 46 years is rare; we may therefore suppose that these 46 years are not counted from the year of the coronation of Nahapāna but from the beginning of a particular era. This supposition seems to be confirmed by some other documents. We know that the satraps of Mathurā belonged to the dynasty of Kshaharātas and that one of them Rājūvula (Ranjubula) struck coins similar to those of Nahapāna, and we may suppose that they were contemporaries. The son of this Rājūvula named Śōḍāsa has left an inscription in Mathurā (No. 59 of Lüders's list) dated in the year 72 [Āmohini record]. Here there can be no doubt. Here it is question of the year 72 of a particular era, for, it is improbable that Śōḍāsa reigned 72 years. Moreover, Mr. Devadatta Ramkrishna Bhandarkar has affirmed (page 275, Vol. XX of Vol. XX of the Journal of the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society) "I maintain that on similar palæographic grounds Nahapāna must be supposed to be prior to Śōḍāsa" and we find a complete justification of this opinion in his paper ('A Kushan stone

inscription'). Thus Palaeography proves that the inscriptions of Nahapāna which are dated 41, 42, 45, 46, are more archaic than the inscription of Śoḍāsa which is dated in the year 72. As these two princes belong to the same family of Kshaharātas (J. R. A. S. for 1912 p. 122) and the coinage of Nahapāna resembles that of Rājāvula, father of Śoḍāsa, it is natural to suppose that Nahapāna and Śoḍāsa dated their inscriptions from the same era. What can this era be? It is generally admitted now that the inscription of Śoḍāsa is dated from the Vikrama era which begins in 58 B. C. If, then, the Vikrama era was no other than the Kshaharāta era, the inscriptions of Nahapāna at Nāsik and Junar will be dated in the years 17, 16, 13 and 12. B. C. These dates perfectly agree with the facts furnished by archaeology. We have said that the art of the monuments of Nahapāna at Kārli and Nāsik resemble that of the grand Śtūpa at Sāñchi. It must be noted now that the art of the monuments of Nahapāna differs much from the art of the epoch of Kanishka. The discovery of the casket in which Kanishka locked up the relics of Buddha has proved, that in the time of Kanishka, Buddha was represented with the head adorned with an aureole and the body dressed in a robe with long folds. It is thus that Buddha is very often represented at Amarāvati. We see nothing like it in the monuments of Nahapāna. It will be too long to give here a detailed history of the evolution of the Hindu art; we shall content ourselves with saying that we can approximately determine the age of the sculptures from the ornamentation and the style. We think it is useless to take up this question again, since we have already developed this theory at great length in Vol. I of our work, "Archéologie du Sud de l'Inde", Vol. I, Architecture. In the course of a series of tours that I made in the Deccan in 1910 - 11, I collected photographs of the principal monuments in this region and particularly those of Kārli and Nāsik. Illustrations intended to support the theory developed in chapters I & II, (pages 15 to 49) of the book will be found in plates I to IX. That theory is the following: there is a difference between the monuments that are anterior to the Christian era and those that are posterior to it. The monuments of Nahapāna

at Nāsik and Kārli are of the same family as the stūpa at Sāñchi and are anterior to Jesus-Christ. On the contrary, the sculptures of the epoch of Kanishka, those of the tope at Amarāvati, the caves of Gautamiputra at Nāsik and of Yajña Śrī at Kanhēri are posterior to Jesus-Christ and are characterised by a very particular kind of ornamentation.

In short, the coinage, paleography and the style of the monuments prove, that, at the beginning of the Christian era there reigned on the shores of the Gulf of Cambay one or more princes bearing the name of Nahapāna. A Nahapāna who had Ushavadāta for his son-in-law reigned in the years 41, 42, 45 and 46 of an unknown era. There reigned in Mathurā some princes of the same dynasty of Kshaharātas. These princes were: Hagāna, Hagāmāsha, Rājāvula, Śoḍāsa Kharahostes and Kalni, and they used a special era. If it is admitted that it is the Vikrama era (58 B. C.) we find that Śoḍasā reigned in 14 or 15 A. D. which well coincides with the information furnished by archæology (it is the opinion of the Director-general of Archæology, Mr. J. H. Marshall, see J. R. A. S. for 1914, page 986). The coins show that Nahapāna was very nearly the contemporary of Hagāna and Hagāmāsha and so it will be a little before the beginning of the Christian era. This is in perfect accord with the supposition that the inscriptions of Nahapāna are dated from the Vikrama era. However, "the question has not been settled" (Vincent A. Smith, the Oxford History of India, 1919, page 153, footnote 1).

Who succeeded Nahapāna or the Nahapānas? It is probable that about the year 20 A. D., Gondopharnes, king of the Panjāb, became master of a great empire that extended all over the west of India; he conquered Arachosia, Sind and the country near the mouth of the Indus; the successors of Nahapāna were probably simple governors of provinces. On the death of Gondophares this empire was parcelled out into petty principalities. The Panjāb fell into the hands of his nephew Abdagases; Arachosia and Sind passed under the rule of Orthagnes who was followed by Pakorēs [concerning Orthagnes, see Gardner, page 109, Pl. XXIII, 9; concerning Pacores, see Gardner, page 110, Pl. XXIII, 8]

The "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea" gives a description

of this region at it was at that time. The date of this work has been determined recently by Mr. J. Kennedy (J. R. A. S. for 1918, page 106). The *Periplus* mentions Malichas who lived in 67 A. D. and died in 71 A. D. It is therefore probable that the anonymous author of *Periplus* went on his travels about the year 70 A. D. The *Periplus* gives a description of the valley of the Lower Indus, which he called Skythia "which is governed, however, by Parthian princes, who are perpetually at strife among themselves expelling each other" (*Periplus*, Ind. Ant. Vol. VIII, page 138). This description applies perfectly well to the state of Sind after Gondophares. The *Periplus* mentions two princes of the northern part of the Deccan: the king of Barygaza (Bharukacha=Broach) whose name ends in "*bares*" (Kennedy, J. R. A. S. for 1918, pages 108 and 113—"Nambanos-Nahapāna is a myth") and the king of Kalliena (Kalyan) who was called Sandanes who was hostile to the foreigners.

Cave No. 3 at Nāsik contains an inscriptions (insc. No. 2.—see Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII, page 61, and Lüders's list No. 1123) which is well-known for the information that it gives. We learn that the king Gautamiputra Śrī Śātakarṇi "destroyed the Śīkas, Yavanas, Palhavas, rooted out the Kshaharāta race and restored the Śātavāhana family."

The inscription says further that Gautamiputra Śrī Śātakarṇi was king of the following countries: Asika, Asaka, Muḷaka, Suratha, Kukura, Aparanta, Anupa, Vidarbha, Ākarāvanti. Since these countries once formed part of the kingdom of the Kshaharātas, we may conclude that Śātakarṇi took possession of them after the destruction of the Kshaharātas (Suratha=Surāshtra=Kāthiāwār; Ākarāvanti=Mālwa; Aparanta=the region along the coast, north of Bombay.)

The destruction of the Kshaharatas by Gautamiputra is fully confirmed by the coinage; in fact, out of 13250 coins bearing the name of Nahapāna that were discovered at Joghāltembhi, there are 9270 that have been re-struck by Gautamiputra. The re-striking of the Kshaharāta coins by Gautamiputra is for us a very valuable information, for, we may then know for certain what kind of coinage the Śātavāhanas had at the time of the destruction of the Śakas. The obverse bears the "Ujjain symbol" and the reverse the symbol "chaitya".

From the fact that all the coin re-struck by Gautamiputra bear the name "Nahapāna", certain authors have come to the conclusion that it was Ushavadata's own father-in-law that was vanquished: "Gautamiputra killed Nahapāna". A closer examination of the coins proves exactly the contrary. Rev. H. R. Scott has made three observations: (1) that the coinage bearing the name of Nahapāna extend over a very long period, since it had had the time to evolve considerably. (2) The effigies are of "extraordinary diversity" and "cannot possibly have been portraits, in the true sense of the word of any single individual" (Rapson, page CX). The first two remarks show that, very probably, the coins bearing the name of Nahapāna have not *all of them* come from the Nahapāna of the inscriptions so the coins containing the name of Nahapāna cannot allow us to draw any conclusion concerning the Nahapāna of the inscriptions. But the third remark is still more important. (3) "Judging from the condition of the coins, I should say that they must have been a very long time in circulation.....before.....being counter struck" (J. B. B. R. A. S. Vol. XXII, page 224). The last remark shows that, *even if* we admit that the Nahapāna of the inscriptions has issued *the most recent* coins of the whole group, "a very long time" must have elapsed between him and Gautamiputra. That is the opinion of Mr. Vincent A. Smith (Early History of India, 3rd Edition, 1914, page 217): "It is not necessary to believe that Gautamiputra Andhra fought with Nahapāna personally. Study of the great Jogbaltembhi hoard of more than 13000 coins of Nahapāna proves that the coinage extended over many years, although always bearing the name of Nahapāna, who I believe was dead before Gautamiputra extirpated his family or clan". Bühler and Bhagwanlal believed that they could read in one of the Nāsik inscriptions that Gautamiputra made a gift of a field belonging "till to-day" (till then) to Ushavadāta. But M. Sénart (Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII, page 72) has proved that the word "ajakālikyam" means quite a different thing. Besides, the omission of Nahapāna's name in mentioning the destruction of the Kshaharātas in the Nāsik inscription proves that Gautamiputra has not encountered this great king. All the inscriptions of Ushavadāta are in too archaic an alphabet for us to suppose

that he was the contemporary of Gautamīputra. Again, in my work "Archéologie du Sud de l'Inde" Vol. I., I have shown by figure 19 (Vihāras of Nāsik) that the style of Nahapāna differs much from that of Gautamīputra; and *these differences are due to time*, since there is *evolution* of architecture [for instance the "bell-shaped" capitals have been replaced by the "pot shaped" ones. This transformation of the form of a bell into that of a sphere has needed at least one century]. Thus then, architecture and palæography perfectly agree with the coinage to prove that "a very long time" has elapsed between the Nahapāna of the inscriptions, and Gautamīputra, the destroyer of the Śakas.

§ 2. Chashtana, founder of the Śaka era.

During three centuries, Ujjain was the capital of a dynasty of kings whose genealogy begins thus:—

Chashtana
|
Jayadāman
|
Rudradāman
|
Dāmajadaśri
|
Jivadāman.

There is no room for doubting that Rudradāman, the representative of the third generation reigned in 130 A. D. Indeed, in 1905-06, Professor Dēvadatta Ramkrishna Bhandarkar (Archæol. Survey Western India-Progress Report for 1905-06, page 35) has made very important discovery of several inscriptions of Rudradāman dated in the 52nd year of an era which is incontestably (see J. R. A. S. 1899, page 365) the Śaka era (78 A. D); they are the inscriptions of Andhau in Cutch.

The text of the inscription is as follows: Rājña Chāshtanasa Ysāmotikaputrasa rājña Rudradāmasa Jayadāmaputrasa vārshe dvipachāśe 50, 2. (Progress Report, Archæol. Survey of India, Western Circle 1914-1915, 67).

As the same text is reproduced in many inscriptions, it must be considered correct and there is no room to think that a fragment of it has either been lost or accidentally omitted by the engraver. Since we know from various documents that Jayadāman was the son of Chāshtana, the meaning of this text is certainly the following: "In the 52nd year, in the reign of Rudradāman, son of Jayadāman, grandson of Chāshtana and great-grandson of Ysāmotika". This

meaning has been accepted for the last 15 years. Very recently, however, Professor Devadatta Ramkrishna Bhandarkar (Dekkan of the Śātavāhana period, Ind. Ant., Vol. XLVII, part DXCVI., June 1918, page 154, footnote 26) has proposed a new interpretation. According to him the inscriptions will be dated in the common reign of Chāshtana and Rudradāman who would have reigned conjointly: "at first, I was inclined "to supply "pauṭrasa" after Ysāmolikapuṭrasa and refer the "date to the reign of Rudradāman (J. B. B. R. A. S., Vol. "XXIII., page 68) Mr. R. C. Majumdar of the Calcutta "University has kindly offered the suggestion that the date "has better be referred to the conjoint reign of Chashtana and "Rudradāman". This interpretation is not possible: if here it was question of common reign of Chashtana and Rudradāman, the text would be "Rudradāmasa cha varshe" or something else which will show that it was the reign of two persons; but here there is no possibility of any doubt; "Rājña Rudradāmasa Jayadāmapuṭrasa varshe" can mean only one thing: "the reign of Rudradāman". The inscriptions of Andhau are therefore dated in the reign of Rudradāman and in the 52nd year of the Śaka era which corresponds to 130 A. D.

We know (see Rapson, page CXXIV), that Jivadāman, the representative of the fifth generation, reigned (as Mahākshatrapa) in Śaka 100 which corresponds to 180 A. D. We may suppose that this king ascended the throne about 2 years before it, in 178 A. D. and we may attribute a reign of 23 years to his father Dāmajadaśri. We thus obtain the following chronology:—

Dāmajadaśri, acc. circ. 155 A. D.,

|
Jivadāman, acc. circ. 178 A. D.

I request the reader to note that this chronology is not something imagined by me: if we open the book of Mr. Vincent A. Smith "Early History of India" 3rd edition, we shall find a plate facing page 218, giving the chronology of Western Kshatrapas; and we shall find there the same dates: Dāmajadaśri, acc. circ. 155 A. D.—Jivadāman, acc. circ. 178 A. D. I have therefore adopted the opinion of Mr. Vincent A. Smith which is certainly very near the truth.

We know the coins of Jayadāman as Kshatrapa, but coins

of this prince bearing the title of Mahākshatrapa have not been discovered so far. If therefore we admit that Jayadāman did not reign at all or reigned only for a short time, we can conclude therefrom that the reign of his father Chashtana and his son Rudradāman have been long. But what is the duration of a long reign?

In the history of the Pallavas there is the example of king Nandiyarman Pallavamalla who reigned for more than 62 years (Tāṇḍantōttām plates, 58th year and Tiruvallam insc. No. 76 of 1889, 62nd year) and was succeeded by his son Dantiyarman who reigned for more than 51 years (Tiruchchāpūr insc. No. 262 of 1904, 51st. year). But such instances are rare and we shall admit that a reign of average length is one of 25 to 30 years and that a long reign may last from 35 to 40 years. So, if we allow that Jayadāman did not reign at all or reigned only a very short time and that the reigns of Rudradāman and Chashtana were long, we get the following chronology:—

Chashtana, acc. circ. 75 or 85 A. D.

Jayadāman (was living circ. 110 or 115 A. D)

Rudradāman, acc. circ 115 or 120 A. D

Dāmajadaśri, acc. circ. 155 A. D.

The only objection that has been made to the above chronology is the following: "The inscriptions of Nahapāna are dated in the Śaka era."

It is certain that Chashtana ascended the throne after the destruction of the Kshaharātas; an examination of the coins proves it (see Rapson, page 72, Pl. X). When Chashtana bore only the title of Kshatrapa (var. b; Pl. x: El and No. 259) and later on assumed the title of Mahākshatrapa (Rapson, Pl. X., No. 260 and H.) we find on the reverse of his coins the symbol "chaitya with three arches" identically the same as that of the coins restruck by Gautamiputra. The symbol "Chaitya with three arches" on the coins of Chashtana proves incontestably that Chashtana was a Satrap of Gautamiputra after the destruction of the Kshaharātas.

If then the inscriptions of Nahapāna which bear the dates 41, 42, 45 and 46 are dated from the Śaka era and correspond

to 119, 120, 123 and 124 A. D. we must admit that Chashtana ascended the throne after 124 A. D.

This supposition clashes with difficulties which have been exposed by Mr. Rakhal Das Banerji in a paper entitled "Nahapāna and the Śaka era" in the "Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society" for 1917, page 273.

We know that Chashtana reigned first as a Kshatrapa and afterwards as a Mahākshatrapa. We have the coins of Jayadāman only as Kshatrapa. So, these coins bear the "Chaitya with six arches" instead of the "Chaitya with three arches" which seems to show that Jayadāman reigned as a Kshatrapa for a sufficiently long time after the destruction of the Kshaharātas. (Rapson, page 76, No. 265 to 268). But, if we admit that the inscriptions of Nahapāna are dated in the Śaka era, there will be only an interval of five years between the inscription of this king dated 46 and the inscriptions of Rudradāman dated 52. Within these years (years 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51), must have taken place :

- (1) The end of Nahapāna's reign ;
- (2) The destruction of the Kshaharātas ;
- (3) The accession of Chashtana as Kshatrapa, his reign as Kshatrapa, his accession as a Mahākshatrapa, and his reign as Mahākshatrapa ;
- (4) The accession of Jayadāman as Kshatrapa, his reign as Kshatrapa, and perhaps also his reign as Mahākshatrapa ;
- (5) The accession of Rudradāman and the beginning of his reign.

That all these events took place within five years, *it is not impossible, but it is not probable*. It is not probable that the Kshaharātas were destroyed soon after the inscription at Junnar; it is not probable that the reigns of Chashtana, first as Kshatrapa then as Mahākshatrapa and of Jayadāman as Kshatrapa and perhaps also as Mahākshatrapa have taken only four or five years; and it is not probable that Rudradāman ascended the throne exactly before Andhau inscriptions were engraved.

A rash guesser may be allowed to suppose that Rudradāman ascended the throne only four or five years after the end of the reign of Nahapāna. But for laying down

such a supposition he must entirely disregard all information obtained from the archæology, numismatics, palæography and philology of India.

(a) Archæology shows us that the architectural style, the ornamental design and the costumes of the personages of the epoch of Nahapāna clearly point to an archaic epoch very near the beginning of the Christian era and that it is impossible to place Nahapāna in the 2nd century A. D;

(b) Numismatics shows that Nahapāna was the contemporary of the Satraps, Hagāna and Hagānāsha, that the coins of Nahapāna were in circulation for a very long time and a still long period elapsed before they were restruck by Gautamiputra;

(c) Palæography shows that the alphabet of the inscriptions of Nahapāna is more archaic than that of Śoḍāsa and much more archaic than that of Rudradāman. To say that the inscriptions of Nahapāna are almost contemporaneous with those of Rudradāman and that there was only a five years' interval between the reigns of these two kings is to introduce a monstrous anachronism into the palæography of these inscriptions;

(d) Comparative philology shows that all the inscriptions of Nahapāna are in Prakṛit whereas all the inscriptions of Rudradāman are in Sanskrit.

Upon the whole, we are not sure of the epoch of Nahapāna, but we are quite sure that the inscriptions of Nahapāna are not dated in the Śaka era; and nothing prevents us from admitting that Chashtana ascended the throne between 75 and 85 A. D.

But, then, can Chashtana be the founder of the Śaka era, since the 1st year of this era corresponds to 79 A. D?

Some persons will say: "No, Chashtana has not founded the Śaka era, because it was Kanishka that founded it." It is therefore necessary to take up the question of the date of Kanishka.

This question is perhaps one that has been very hotly discussed and though it is not yet completely settled, it is much more clear today than it was 10 years ago. After the skilful excavations of Mr. J. H. Marshall (see J. R. A. S.; 1914, pages 973-86; and 1915, pages 991-16), it is not possible any more to place Kanishka before the two Kadphises.

Besides, the close resemblance existing between the coins of Kadphisēs I. and those of Augustus and Tiberius does not allow any doubt in regard to the approximate age of Kujula-Kadphisēs. As Fleet says : "We do not dispute in any way the view that at some time closely about A. D. 50, the sovereignty in the Kabul territory passed from the Greek king Hirmaeus to the Kushan prince Kozoulo-Kadphisēs, whose son Wēmo-Kadphisēs then established a Kushan empire in Northern India" (J. R. A. S., 1913, p. 969).

We may therefore say now that it is certain that Kaṇishka did not come to the throne before about 75 A. D.

This date marks the earliest limit, but Kaṇishka might have ascended the throne much later. Very recently, a scholar (Ind. Ant, Vol. XI, VI.—Part DLXXXVIII, page 261) thought that he had proved that the era founded by Kaṇishka was the Kalachuri era of 248 A. D. This is not possible. In fact, the reign of Vāsudēva, the last of the Kushāns, came to an end 100 years after the beginning of the reign of Kaṇishka. Numerous inscriptions prove that Vāsudēva reigned at Mathurā. It is certain that this country over which extended the empire of Vāsudēva was occupied about 350 A. D. by the Yaudhēyas and the Nāgas and it is probable that they reigned in this place nearly one century before they were subjugated by Samudra-Gupta. The capitals of the Nāgas were Mathurā, Kāntipura and Padmāvati (or Pavāya, at the confluence of the Sindhu and the Parā). We know the name of Śivanatīdi (Archæological Survey of India, for 1915-1916) who was a predecessor of Gaṇapati Nāga the rival of Samudra-Gupta. We have also coins of Gaṇapati Nāga (Bühler's Grundriss, Ind. coins § 101, Pl. V, 2). Nāgasēna, heir of the house of Padmāvati, mentioned in Harsha-charita (page 221), (see J. R. A. S. for 1899, page 448), has been identified by Mr. E. J. Rapson with the Nāgasēna of the pillar at Allāhābād. We know also the coins (Ind. coins, § 101) of Prabhākara (J. R. A. S. for 1900, page 117), of Skandanāga, of Devanāga (Cunningham, coins of Medizeval India, pp. 23 and 24) and of Bhīmanāga (Progress Report Arch. Surv. Western Circle for 1914-15, page 60).

The Yaudhēyas were formidable at the time of Rudradāman; but the Girnar inscription tells us that they were

vanquished probably shortly before the year 150 A. D. It is probably after the death of Vāsudēva that they established themselves in the Mathurā region. We have a stone inscription (Gupta Inscriptions, No. 58, Plate XXXVI, B) found at Bijayagadh [or Bôjôgadh, about two miles to the South West of Byānā, the chief town of the Byānā tahsil of the Bharatpur (Bhurtpoor) state in Rājputānā] which has come to us from the Yaudhēyas and which enables us to know the geographical position of their empire. The alphabet of the inscriptions is intermediate between that of the last Kushāns and that of the first Gupta. We have also the coins of this dynasty (Cunningham, *Coins of Anc. Ind.* Pl. VI., 6-8); and the Yaudhēyas are mentioned in line 22 of the inscription on the pillar at Allāhābād (No. 1 of Gupta Inscriptions). The invasion of Samudra-Gupta took place in the middle of the IV century. If we take nearly one century as the duration of the reigns of the Yaudhēyas and the Nāgas, we find that Vāsudēva ceased to reign before about 250 A. D. and that Kaṇishka came to the throne before about 150 A. D.

So the accession of Kaṇishka should be placed between 75 A. D. and 150 A. D.

We know that Kaṇishka founded an era and we have just seen that he came to the throne between 75 and 150 A. D. Can Kaṇishka be the founder of the Śaka era which begins at the end of 78 A. D.? I believe that this hypothesis is not probable for the following reasons :

(1) If we admit that Kujula-Kadphīsēs and Hermœus reigned about 50 A. D. and that Kaṇishka founded the Śaka era in 78 A. D., we have scarcely 28 years for the duration of the end of the reign of Vima-Kadphīsēs (I) and the whole of the reign of Kujula-Kadphīsēs (II). It is probable that Kadphīsēs I. reigned long and died when he was about 80 years old. Secondly, the reign of Kadphīsēs (II) was probably very long (at least 40 years); that is the opinion of Mr. Vincent A. Smith : "No definite proof of the length of his reign can be given, but the extent of the conquests made by Kadphīsēs II. and the large volume of his coinage are certain indications that his reign was protracted. Cunningham assigned it a duration of forty years." (*Early History of India*, 2nd Ed. page 239, foot note 1).

Again, it is not certain that Kanishka was the immediate successor of Kadphises II.

So, it is not possible that Kanishka should have come to the throne in 79 A. D.

(2) We do not know exactly in what era are dated the inscription of the year 103 of Gondophares and the inscriptions of the years 113 and 122 of the Kushāns; if we suppose that it is the Vikrama era, the dates agree so well with all the information furnished by history, palæography, and the coins, that most of the savants have accepted this hypothesis. For example, the year 103 of this era being the 26th year of Gondophares, he must have come to the throne in 19 A. D. And Gondophares uses the title "autocrator" which was introduced by Augustus and adopted by the Parthian king Phraates IV (8 to 11 A. D.). Mr. Marshall has discovered at Taxila (J. R. A. S., for 1914, pp. 973, 978) in the "Chîr Stûpa" a document dated 136, which, in the Vikrama era, corresponds to 79 A. D., and the king mentioned therein is probably Kadphises I, but certainly not Kanishka (see "Taxila insc. of year 136" by Sten Konow, in *Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XIV., pp. 284 to 288). This discovery is enough to shake the conviction of those that attribute to Kanishka the era of 78 A. D.

(3) Mr. Sten Konow has shown recently (*Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XIV., pages 141 and 290) that the Tibetan and Chinese documents tend to prove that Kanishka reigned in the 2nd century and not in the 1st.

(4) The scholars who thought that Kanishka founded the era 78 A. D. believed also that he introduced in India the Græco-Buddhistic art in all its splendour. But when the reliquary bearing an inscription of Kanishka was discovered, one might expect that this work of art chiselled under the pious orders of the great king would be a splendid work of Greek art. Alas! The sculptures are deplorably inferior in workmanship and undoubtedly represent an art in full decadence. A further attentive study of the art of Kanishka has shown that this king did not reign certainly in the 1st century.

(5) Mr. Sten Konow has shown recently (*Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XIV., page. 141) that the inscriptions of the Kanishka era and those of the Śaka era are not dated in the same fashion: "It becomes impossible to maintain that Kanishka was the founder

" of the Śaka era and used it in his inscriptions because then
" it becomes unintelligible why he should have changed the
" way of expressing the dates".

We shall therefore conclude that Kanishka is not the founder of the Śaka era.

The preceding lines had already been written when I had the honour of receiving from Mr. Vincent A. Smith a copy of "The Oxford History of India," Oxford, 1919, and I read in page 127 : "It may now be affirmed with confidence that the order of the five leading Kushān kings is finally settled, and that the uncertainty as to the chronology has been reduced to a period of forty years in round numbers or to state it otherwise, the question is, "Did Kanishka come to the throne in A. D. 78, or about forty years later?". When the third edition of the "Early History of India" was published in 1914, my narrative was based upon the working hypothesis that Kanishka's accession took place in A. D. 78, although it was admitted to be possible that the true date might be later. Further consideration of the evidence from Taxila now available leads me to follow Sir John Marshall and Professor Sten Konow in dating the beginning of Kanishka's reign approximatively in A. D. 120, a date which I had advocated many years ago on different grounds".

Since the Śaka era was not founded either by Nahapāna or by Kanishka and as Gautamiputra also was not the founder of it (no one has made this supposition), there remain but two hypotheses : that the Śaka era was founded either by Chashtana or by Kadphīs II. The latter opinion is held by Dr. Sten Konow who has written recently "I am still of opinion that the Śaka era was established by Vima-Kadphīs". (The Ara inscription, in Ep. Ind. Vol. XIV., p. 141).

For such a theory to be possible, Kadphīs II must have reigned in 78-79 A. D. We may believe that the inscription of the "Chir Stūpa" at Taxila is dated in the 136th year of the era which begins in 58-57 B. C. and the date 136 falls precisely in 78-79 A. D. And if we study the inscription of the "Chir Stūpa" and ask ourselves who is the king therein mentioned, we are rather inclined to reply: "It is an inscription of Kujula-Kadphīs (I)" : "So far as I can see, there cannot be much doubt that the Kushāna Emperor of the Panjtār and Taxila

records was Kujula-Kadphisès and not Vima-Kadphisès" (Ep. Ind. Vol. XIV Part VII, July 1918, page 289, "Taxila inscription of the year 136" by Sten Konow). It is not therefore probable that (Vima) Kadphisès II reigned in 78-79 A. D.

But even granting that Kadphisès II. reigned in 78-79 A. D. it has to be proved that he founded an era. We have not even a single document that can make us believe that Kadphisès II has founded an era. On the contrary, if the "Chir Stûpa" inscription is dated 78-79 A. D., it will be proved that the Kushân Kings used after A. D. 78 the era 58-57 B. C.; and finally, granting that Kadphisès II. founded an era, it must be proved that this era was adopted by Chashtana or his descendants.

After all, the theory of (Vima) Kadphisès II having founded the Śaka era is not based either upon any proof or even indication.

There remains then but one hypothesis : "The Śaka era was founded by Chashtana". This theory was expressed 30 years ago by Cunningham (see N. chr. 1888, p. 232 and 1892, p. 44) discussed notably by D. R. Bhandarkar (B. B. R. A. S., Vol., XX page 280) and was afterwards completely abandoned.

I now wish to assert boldly that this abandonment is quite unjustified. This theory has been slighted because for 30 years the historians of India have had two preconceived notions : (1) that the inscriptions of Nahapâna are dated in the Śaka era. (2) that the Śaka era was founded by Kanishka. I think I have proved that these two suppositions are now untenable.

I affirm that the only natural theory concerning the Śaka era is that it was founded by Chashtana.

It is admitted on all hands that the dynasty of Chashtana has used the Śaka era; and it is but *natural* to suppose that the founder of the dynasty was also the founder of the era used by it. Outside the kingdom of Chashtana and his descendants, not a single inscription has been found which is dated in the above era. In fact the inscriptions of the Kushân kings are not dated from the Śaka era and the inscriptions dated from the same era which are found in South India are all posterior to the fall of the dynasty of Chashtana. Thus then all the Śaka inscriptions

that are anterior to 400 A. D. are every one of them inscriptions of the dynasty of Chashtana. The era is therefore special to that dynasty.

If we are not quite sure that Chashtana was a Śaka, there is no doubt that he was of foreign origin. The names of the members of this family show that they were foreigners. Mr. Rapson says (page CXXI) : "Chsamotuka is Seythie"; "shana (in Chashtana) is a Persian termination"; and (page CXXII) Dāmaghsada "foreign name, may possibly be an attempt to express the Persian Zāda, a son".

A general of the W. Kshatrapas is mentioned in an inscription (Progress Report, Arch. Survey, Western India for 1917-1918, page 37) as being a Śaka.

Were Chashtana and his descendants themselves Śakas? It is possible; but one thing is certain, that in ancient India they were designated by the name of Śakas. The Matsya Purāna mentions a dynasty of 18 Śakas which is probably that of Chashtana; but there can be no doubt in certain cases: for instance, Bāna in circ. 630 A. D. has written ("Harsha charita" trans. Cowell and Thomas, page 194) : "In his enemy's city, the king of the Śakas, while courting another man's wife, was butchered by Chandra-Gupta".

To sum up :

(1) It is certain that all the dates that are given in the documents of the dynasty of Chashtana are of the Śaka era.

(2) We do not know of even a single inscription anterior to 400 A. D. which is dated in the Śaka era and belongs to a dynasty other than that of Chashtana.

(3) Tradition has given the name of Śaka to the era beginning in 78 A. D., since it was the era used by the descendants of Chashtana who in ancient India were designated by the name of "Śaka."

(4) The most ancient inscriptions (Andhau) are dated in the year 52 of this era; and they are the inscriptions of the grandson of the founder of the dynasty. If the founder of the dynasty was also the founder of the era, it is quite natural that the grandson should have reigned 52 years later.

Therefore, the most simple, the most natural and the most logical theory consists in saying : "The Śaka era of 78 was founded by Chashtana".

§ 3. The later Śālavāhana kings.

If 79 A. D. is the first year of the reign of Chashtana, it is probable that the destruction of the Kshaharātas by Gautamiputra took place in 78 A. D. or a little earlier.

It is probable that Chashtana was a Śaka prince, who, for some reasons not known, entered into an alliance with Gautamiputra against the Kshaharātas. Perhaps he was either a petty prince of Sind or Rājputāna who invaded the Kshaharāta empire or a vassal of the Kshaharātas who revolted against his suzerain.

The form of the hair on the head of Chashtana differs from that of the king represented on the coins bearing the name of Nahapāna.

It seems that Chashtana was first a vassal of Gautamiputra for the following three reasons : (1) Chashtana first bore only the title of Kshatrapa (2) The reverse side of the coins of Chashtana contains the Chaitya with 3 arches which characterises the coins restruck by Gautamiputra (3) The Nāsik inscription says that Gautamiputra was the lord of Surāshtra and Mālvā.

However, Chashtana, even as a Kshatrapa, had coins struck in his own name, and there is room to think that the powers of Gautamiputra in the states of Chashtana were only nominal.

The mother of Gautamiputra was the queen Gautami Balaśri which justifies the name of Gautamiputra borne by her son. We know, in fact, that the kings of this epoch often added before their name the gōtra of their mother.

The son of Gautamiputra reigned under the name of Vāsishthiputra Śri Pulumāvi.

The famous Nāsik inscription, in which the queen Balaśri, mother of Gautamiputra and grandmother of Vāsishthiputra Pulumāvi, tells us that her son destroyed the Śakas, is dated in

the 19th year of the reign of her grandson Puṣumāvi (Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII., p. 61).

At Nāsik, there are two inscriptions of Gautamiputra dated in the years 18 (insec. No. 1125 of Lüders's list) and 24 (insec. No. 1126). Professor D. R. Bhandarkar who has discussed this subject recently (Ind. Ant., Vol. XLVII, page 152) says : "Sir Ramkrishna Bhandarkar contends that all these dates pertain to the reign of Puṣumāvi and that he reigned conjointly with his father, the former over Mahā-rāshṭra and the latter over the hereditary Śātavāhana dominions. The latter view alone can be correct. For in inscription No. 5, Gautamiputra Śātakarṇi, who is the donor there along with his mother, issues a grant in favour of Buddhist monks, who, it is expressly stated were staying in the cave which was the pious gift of theirs. This cave which was a pious gift of Śātakarṇi and his mother must doubtless be cave No. 3 which, as we have seen above, was excavated and given over to the Bhadrāyanīyas. But then we have also seen that this cave was presented to these monks in the 19th regnal year, not of Śātakarṇi but of Puṣumāvi." (Dekkan of the Śātavāhana Period by Prof. D. R. Bhandarkar).

I regret I cannot accept this theory. On the contrary, the inscriptions themselves clearly show that Gautamiputra and Puṣumāvi have reigned in succession. Indeed, Gautamiputra, in the year 24, states distinctly that the cave was excavated under the orders of his mother and himself : "Pious gift of ours"; and in the inscription of queen Balaśrī in the 19th year of Puṣumāvi, the queen mother makes a solemn gift of the cave *in her own name*. This can be explained in only one way : the excavation of the cave was begun under the orders of Gautamiputra and his mother before the 18th year of Gautamiputra and was finished only after the death of Gautamiputra and during the reign of his son Puṣumāvi; we have proof of it in the fact that it was the latter king that had it embellished with paintings. The cave not having been consecrated officially, this consecration took place only in the 19th year of Puṣumāvi. Since the king Gautamiputra was dead, the queen Balaśrī made the gift officially herself.

I have besides another remark to make on this occasion.

I think that the meaning of the inscription of the queen Balaśri has not been correctly understood till now. We wonder why this inscription dated in the reign of Puṣumāvi contains exclusively the eulogies of Gautamiputra. I believe that the real meaning of the inscription, is this: the queen mother, when she was officially presenting the cave, cannot forget that it was under the orders of her son that the excavation of the cave was begun; it was therefore quite natural to eulogise the glorious Gautamiputra. Thus the inscription of Balaśri has a clear meaning: it is the funeral oration on the great king delivered by an inconsolable mother.

Again the supposition that Gautamiputra was not the king of the region about Nāsik is untenable: 1) because Gautamiputra gives orders to the officers of Nāsik; 2) according to the inscription of Balaśri he reigned over Surāshṭra, Aparānta, and, Vidarba; and Mr. Bhandarkar admits that he reigned also over the South; why should the Nāsik region alone form an exception? 3) We have seldom seen a father dating his grants in the reign (and especially in the 24th year) of the reign of his son; 4) and lastly we have a positive proof of it in the hoard of Joghaltembhi.

We have said that this treasure consisted of 13250 coins bearing the name of Nahapāna of which 9270 had been restruck by Gautamiputra (J. B. B. R. A. S., Vol XXII, page 224). It is remarkable that in this treasure there is not a single coin of Vāsisthiputra Puṣumāvi who, as we know, has struck coins in his own name (see: Rapson, Coins of the Āndhra dynasty, page 20). As Joghaltembhi is a village in the environs of Nāsik, we have to conclude that, after the destruction of the Śakas, it was Gautamiputra that reigned in this place and that the treasure was buried during his reign and before the accession of Puṣumāvi. But Rev. H. R. Scott who has examined the hoard of Joghaltembhi carefully has made an important remark: "Judging from the condition of the coins, I should say that they must have been a very long time in circulation and that both before and *after* being counter-struck (J. B. B. R. A. S., Vol XXII, p. 224); and he adds "They could not have been buried earlier than 20 years after Śātakarṇi's victory". So, there is no doubt that Gautamiputra reigned in the Nāsik region for a long time, since the coins have had time to get

considerably worn out. Puṣumāvi has therefore reigned at Nāsik for more than 15 years after the destruction of the Kshaharātas.

It is certain that Chashtana was for a time the contemporary of Puṣumāvi. In fact, Ptolemy says in his geography (Ind. Ant., Vol XIII., page 366) that Sīro Polemaios reigned at Baithana, and Tiaslanes at Ozēnē. Ozēnē is unquestionably Ujjain which was the capital of all the kings of the dynasty of Chashtana, and Baithana is Paithana or Paithana, the capital of Puṣumāvi. Unfortunately the evidence of Ptolemy does not enable us to know exactly in what epoch Chashtana and Puṣumāvi lived. We do not know for certain in what year Ptolemy wrote his geography and we know little about the life of this scholar. Olympiodorus says that when Ptolemy was at Canopa in 147, he had already been making astronomical observations for 40 years, which will place Ptolemy's works between 107 and 147 A. D. Ptolemy was not a navigator; he was an astronomer of Alexandria who wrote his geography chiefly with the object of drawing a map of the world with latitudes and longitudes: and has he not the pretension to give his own views about the countries he speaks about. He confines himself to reconstructing the configuration of the countries, relying upon the descriptions given by the travellers in the works which can be had in his days. He himself admits that he follows Marin of Tyr, navigator who made his voyage about 100 A. D. From which book has Ptolemy taken his information about Puṣumāvi and Chashtana? It may not be impossible that it was from the work of Marin of Tyr which unfortunately has not come down to us. But it is certain that this information was obtained from relatively recent sources and as Ptolemy wrote his geography in the first half of the IInd century, we may admit that the information he gives about Chashtana and Puṣumāvi belongs to the beginning of the IInd century.

When the Kshaharātas occupied Northern Deccan, the capital of the Śātavāhanas was probably Amarāvati on the lower course of the Krishṇā. The legend that Śrī Kakulam was the capital has no foundation (see Ind. Ant., Nov. 1913, Vol XLII, page 276). At the time of Gantamīputra and at the beginning of the reign of Puṣumāvi it was Amarāvati that was

the capital : the king was called "Lord of Dhanamkṣa" (insc. No. 3 at Nāsik. Dhanamkṣa=Dhānyakṣaka=Dhanakṣa—Dhaññakṣa). Puṣumāvi removed the capital to Paithana (Pratishthāna).

The Purāṇas pretend to give us the history of the Śātavāhanas to whom they give the name of Āndhras. However, if we compare the information given in the Purāṇas with what is contained in the historical documents we possess, we find that it is only the Matsya that deserves to engage the attention of the historian. We shall not however attach any value to the durations of the reigns given in the Matsya Purāṇa, for, each time we proceed to verify these dates, "the Purāṇas are proved to be in error" (Vincent A. Smith.—Early History of India, 2d Edition, page 194). However the order of succession of the kings is nearer the truth. That order is as follows :

Gautamīputra,
Puṣumā,
Śivaśrī,
Śivaskanda,
Yajñaśrī,
Vijaya,
Chandāśrī Śāntikarna,
Puṣumā.

It is to be remarked that we find here Gautamīputra followed by Puṣumāvi; besides, the inscriptions and the coins are found to confirm the existence of Śivaśrī, of Yajñaśrī and of Chanda.

It is almost certain that the Matsya Purāṇa is right in saying that Śiva Śrī was the successor of Puṣumāvi, for we have (Rapson, page 29) the coins bearing the name "Raño Vāsithiputa Śiva-Srī-Śātakarṇi (Vāsishthiputra Śiva-Śrī-Śātakarṇi); and these coins are almost identical with those of Puṣumāvi in regard to the letters of the alphabet, the symbols (chaitya with three arches etc.) and the workmanship. We have also an inscription (No. 1279 of Luder's list) of Amarāvati which is dated in the reign of Śrī-Sivamaka-Sada who is perhaps Śiva-Śrī-Śātakarṇi.

We have not yet found any documents, coins or inscriptions, mentioning Śivaskanda Śātakarṇi. However, in cave 36 at Kanheri, there is an inscription (No. 1001 of Luder's list)

dated in the 8th year of king Māḍhariputa Svāmi whose name is followed by another not very legible which Mr. D. R. Bhandarkar (Ind. Ant. Vol XLVII, Part DXCVI, June 1918) has read Sri Sāta. The alphabet of this inscription (as well as of another, No. 1002) seems to show that this king reigned before Yajña Śri. If this palaeographical indication and the list given in the Matsya are correct, this Māḍhariputa can be no other than Śivaskanda.

Yajña-Śri seems to have had a brilliant reign. It was in fact at the time of Gautamīputra Yajña Śātakarṇi that was dug the chaitya of Kaphēri which is in a degenerate style compared with that of the splendid Chaitya at Kārli, but which is a remarkable monument (insc. No. 1124 of Lüders's list; 16th year of Yajña). It was also during the time of this king that was embellished the VIII cave at Nāsik whose inscription No. 4 is dated in the 7th year of his reign (Ep. Ind. Vol VIII., page 94). A fragment of a pillar discovered at China near the mouth of the Kṛishṇā which has since been transported to the Madras Museum contains an inscription dated in the 27th year of the reign of Yajña (Ep. Ind., Vol. I., page 95): and the coins bearing the very characteristic name "Yajña" are also well known (see Rapson).

We know the name of Vijaya only from the Matsya Purāṇa.

Chandaśri Śāntikarna must probably be identified with Vāsisthiputa Chadasāta who reigned at the time, when the Koḍavolu inscription was engraved (see Report on Epigraphy; Madras Government orders; inscription No. 228 of 1908), and with Vāsisthiputa Siri Caḍa Sāti (Vāsisthiputra Śri Chandra Śāti) of the coins (see Rapson, pages 30 and 32; Mr. Rapson thinks that this king must have preceded Yajña).

We shall speak of Puḷumāvi, the last king of this dynasty, in the following chapter concerning the Pallavas and the inscription at Myākadonī.

The inscription (No. 965 of Lüders's list) of Girnar (Junāgaḍh in Kāthiāwāḍ) which is dated in the year 150 A. D. says [Ep. Ind. Vol VIII., p. 47] that Rudradāman, by his own valour [svavīryy-ārjjitānām] gained Ākarāvanti (Mālwa), Śurāshṭra (Kāthiāwār), Kachchha (Cutch), Aparānta (the coast

to the north of Bombay) etc, destroyed the Yaudhēyas, who were loath to submit, defeated Śātakarṇi, lord of Dakṣhiṇā-patha, but on account of the nearness of their connection did not destroy him but himself acquired the name of Mahākshatrapa.

Which king of the Śātavāhana dynasty is called here by the name of Śātakarṇi? The inscriptions and the coins seem to confirm the statement of the Gīrnar inscription. An inscription at Kanheri (No. 994 of Lüders's list) "exhibits the neat characters of Western Kshatrapa inscriptions" (Bühler, Ind. Ant., Vol XXXIII, page 43). This inscription, as those of Rudradāman is in Sanskrit and thus differs from all other Śātavāhana inscriptions which are all in Prākṛit. This inscription mentions the queen of Vāsishṭhiputra Śrī Śātakarṇi, daughter of the mahākshatrapa Ru[dra]. The last name consists only of two syllables the first of which is certainly "Ru" and the second very probably "dra." Secondly Yajña Śrī "issued coins.....and they are similar in fabric and style to the Kshatrapa coins" (Rapson, section 87). The characteristic of these coins is that the head of king Yajña is represented on them, whereas the image of the king is not found in any coin of the other Śātavāhanas. It is therefore certain that it is Yajña who adopted the Kshatrapa style for these coins. These coins of Yajña (Rapson Pl.VII, E1) resemble those of Rudradāman. It has to be remarked that the coin of Rudradāman found on his coins resembles that of Yajña; it is a sort of spherical calotte covering the skull and differs totally from the coin of Chastana; and the sculptures of the chaitya of Kanheri which are dated in the time of Yajña show us personages who have their hair dressed as Yajña and Rudradāman. It is therefore probable that it was Rudradāman who adopted the coiffure that was used in the Deccan at the time of Yajña Śrī. Thus then Rudradāman was almost a contemporary of Yajña and was besides the father-in-law of a Vāsishṭhiputra Śātakarṇi, which Yajña was not, as we know that he was a Gautamiputra. Unfortunately we know three Śātavāhanas who bore the name of Vāsishṭhiputra: the great Puṣyāmī, Śiva Śrī and Chanda Śrī. We know also a certain Vāsishṭhiputra Chatrapana who had reigned 13 years when an inscription at Nānāghāt (No. 1120 of Lüders's list) was engraved; it is however probable that this latter

Vāsishthiputra is no other than Śiva-Śrī or Chanda Śrī, and the word Chaturapana is suspicious (see J. R. A. S. for 1905, page 798).

It is almost certain that the Vāsishthiputra who was the son-in-law of Rudradāman was not the great Puṣumāvi; we know in fact that Puṣumāvi was the contemporary of Chashtana. It appears therefore to be impossible that he should have married the great-grand-daughter of Chashtana. There yet remain Śiva Śrī and Chanda Śrī; but it is probable that the son-in-law of Rudradāman was rather Śiva Śrī, who might have married the daughter of Rudradāman after having fought with him once and who might have been defeated in his turn about the year 130 A. D., when fighting a second time with the Kshatrapa king. Rudradāman might have been the victor and might have occupied Aparānta for some time up to the reign of Yajña Śrī who might have adopted into this region a coinage similar to that of Rudradāman. The above are suppositions, since the documents we have do not enable us to have a correct knowledge of this history.

The following might perhaps be the chronology of the Śāta-vāhanas in conjunction with that of the Western Kshatrapas:

Circ. A. D.	
78	Destruction of Kshaharātas by Gautamiputra.
79	1st year of the reign of Chashtana and of the Saka era; Circ. 10th year of the reign of Gautamiputra.
From 95 to 120	Reigns of Puṣumāvi and Chashtana.
From 120 to 140	Invasion of the Yaudhēyas and of the Āndhras; Jayadāman transfers his power to his son Rudradāman who gets the title of Mahākshatrapa and defeats Śiva Śrī Śātakarṇi.
From 140 to 150	Rudradāman occupies Aparānta; reign of Śivaskanda.
From 150 to 155	End of the reign of Rudradāman; beginning of the reign of Yajña Śrī.
From 155 to 178	Reign of Dāmajadaśrī and of Yajña Śrī
From 178 to 180	End of the reign of Yajña Śrī and beginning of the reigns of Jivadāman and Vijaya śātakarṇi.

In the above chronology we have admitted that Rudra-dāman was the contemporary of a series of three kings:

- (1) Vāsishthiputra Śiva Śrī,
- (2) Māḍhariputra Sivaskanda,
- (3) Gautamiputra Yajña Śrī.

But some coins found in the Kolhapur region (Rapson, pages 5, 7, 14) have restructs which enables us to settle the following series :

- (1) Vāsishthiputra Vilivāyakura,
- (2) Māḍhariputra Sivalakura,
- (3) Gautamiputra Vilivāyakura,

Can these two series be identified ?

It is to be remarked that :

(1) The first names, Vāsishthiputra, Māḍhariputra, Gautamiputra, prove nothing, as we know that these names indicate a Gōtra and the custom of prefixing to the real name of a person the name of his mother's Gōtra has been in existence in the dynasties of the neighbours of the Śātavāhanas (the Ābhiras, the Chutus, the Ikshvākus). There then remain the second names, and they, Vilivāyakura and Sivalakura, have not been found in authentic Śātavāhana inscriptions.

(2) The coins bear as symbols "bow and arrow" in place of the Ujjain symbol of the coins of Śātavāhanas.

(3) Again, these coins have been found only in the Kolhapur region; and Ptolemy says, that at Hippokura, in a country which may be situated approximately in this part of the Deccan, there reigned a king named Baleokuros, who, many authors have believed, can be identified with Vilivāyakura. This king will, in that case, be a contemporary of Puṣumāvi and belong to another dynasty.

I think therefore that these coins may be provisionally admitted to belong to the "Kolhapur Dynasty."

Some coins bearing the names of Śrī Rudra Śātakarṇi and Śrī Kṛishṇa Śātakarṇi have been found (see Rapson, Coins of Indian Museum; Āndhra dynasty) in the Chanda district of the Central Provinces. As these names have been found only in this region, we may suppose that these kings belonged to a peculiar dynasty that subsisted for some time in the Chanda district, when the Śātavāhanas had been replaced by the Chutus, the Nāgas, the Pallavas, the Ikshvākus and the Brihatphalāyanas,

CHAPTER III

THE PALLAVAS.

§ 1. The Pallava mystery.

In "The Oxford History of India" which Mr. Vincent A. Smith has published this year (Oxford, 1919), he says (page 205); "The Pallavas constitute one of the mysteries of Indian history" and again in his "Early History of India" (2nd edition, page 423) he has said: "Who were the Pallavas? Whence did they come? How did they attain the chief place among the powers of the South?"

Many authors have answered this question with a theory [see the Mysore Gaz., I., pages 303-4; see also Madras Manual, I., page 129] which may be called "The theory of Parthian invasion". The supporters of this theory believe that the Pallavas were a northern tribe of Parthian origin, that they were a clan of nomads who, having come from Persia, were not able to settle in Northern India and so continued their invasion up to Kāñchipuram. This hypothesis was very charming to the imagination. They pictured to themselves a number of men of the white race, the Parthians, brandishing their bows (the Parthian arrow is well-known) forming a nomadic tribe, transporting their camp from country to country and destroying, like the Huns, everything they found on their way. It is thus they would have traversed the whole of India and would have stopped only at the extremity of the Peninsula. Then, after having vanquished the ancient tribes in the South, they would

have established their capital at Kāñchipuram. This theory presents a very great difficulty. This great invasion, by a whole clan of the Parthian tribe, extending from the frontiers of Persia to the extreme South of the Indian peninsula, implies an immense political commotion in the Deccan. When did this important event take place? Certain authors, and V. Venkayya in particular, have tried to determine "the date of the Pallava migration to the South". But up to the present day we have not found any document which proves the existence of a Parthian invasion of Southern India. We may say that this theory makes the Pallava mystery still more mysterious. It is not therefore without cause that Mr. Vincent A. Smith, in the two last editions of his "Early History of India", has abandoned the theory of the Parthian invasion and has tried to discover a less improbable theory.

"There is every reason to believe that future historians will be able to give a fairly complete narrative of the doings of the Pallava kings, and that the mystery which surrounds their origin and affinities may be elucidated in large measure." (The Oxford History of India, page 210).

It is with the object of realising the wish of Mr. Vincent A. Smith that we now proceed to prove the following propositions :

(1) The Āndhra empire was governed by feudatories who bore the title of Mahārāthis and were called "Nāgas" as they belonged to a race of serpent-worshippers.

(2) Coins containing the image of a "Ship with two masts" are found almost exclusively on the coast between Madras and Cuddalore and they represent the moneys of Tonḍai-Maṇḍalam of which Kāñchi is the capital. According to Prof. Rapson, these coins bear the legend "Śrī Puṣumāvi". The Ujjain symbol indicates the Śātavāhana dynasty. So this dynasty reigned over the territory of Kāñchipuram. Further, an inscription of Puṣumāvi, the last king of that dynasty, shows that the prince Skanda-Nāga was his great general; there is no doubt that the Nāgas were very powerful when the Śātavāhana dynasty came to an end.

(3) It is certain that one of those royal families of Nāga origin, the "Chuṭu", took the place of the Śātavāhanas.

(4) It is certain that all the most ancient Pallava kings

were the contemporaries of the Chutus of the Nāga race.

(5) It is also certain that the Pallavas succeeded the Chutus of the Nāga race.

(6) The Pallava plates of Vélūrpālaiyam contain (verses 3 to 22) the history of the Pallavas according to the family tradition. There, it is said that the first member of the family who became king "acquired all the emblems of royalty on marrying the daughter of the lord of Serpents—evidently a Nāga princess" (Report on Epigraphy for 1910—1911; G. O. Public, 28th July, Part II, No. 7, page 61).

(7) I hold the theory that I have enunciated in my work "The Pallavas" (Pondicherry, 1917): "The earliest Pallavas were not kings, and they were alien to South India. One of them married the daughter of one of the kings of that country and thus became a king himself" (The Pallavas, page 23). At the time of the Girnār inscription the Western Satrapas reigned in Āparānta and had a *Pahlava* for their minister. These *Pahlavas* were the neighbours of the Nāgas when the Chutu-Nāgas reigned in Āparānta (Kaphēri inscription of the mother of Skanda-Nāga, No. 1021 of Lüders's list). A Pallava prince married the daughter of the King Śiva-Skanda-Nāga-Śālakarṇi, and inherited the throne of Kāñchi.

Such, in a few words, is our theory in regard to the origin of the Pallavas. We shall now proceed to develop it.

No. 1. Mahārāthis, Chutus, Nāgas.

The inscription of Nānāghāt (Arch. Surv. West. Ind. Vol. V, No. 3, p. 64) says that Śātakarṇi, king of Dakshināpatha married Nāga-Nikā, daughter of a Mahārāthi Kaḷalāya.

The "lion pillar" at Kārli (Ep. Ind. Vol., VII., page 49) was a gift of Mahārāthi Agni-Mitra-Nāga.

After the fall of the Śītavāhana dynasty, a large portion of the empire passed into the hands of the dynasty of the Chutus who were related to the Mahārāthis. The Chutus and the Mahārāthis often bore the title of Śātakarṇis.

An inscription (No. 1195 of Lüders's list) at Maḷavalli in the Shikārpur taluq of Mysore (Ep. Carn., Vol. VII., Sk.

263; plate facing the page 252. See also "Mysore and Coorg from inscriptions", plate facing page 21) is dated in the 2nd year of the reign of Hārītiputa-Vinbhukāḍa-Chuṭukulananda Śātakarṇi, king of Vaijyanti. We know that Vaijyanti is nothing but Banavāsi and this very town of Banavāsi contains an inscription (No. 1186 of Lüders's list; see also Arch. Surv. West. Ind., Vol IV., Pl. IV.; and Ind. Ant., 1885, 331) which is dated in the 12th year of the same king: "According to Dr. Burgess, account....., it is carved "on the two edges of a large slate slab, bearing the representation of a five-hooded cobra." (Ind. Ant., Vol. XIV, p. 331). According to Bühler (Ind. Ant. Vol. XIV, p. 332) "the alphabet resembles, as Dr. Bhagwanlal Indraji has stated, that of the "Nāsik inscription of Siriyāṇa-Śātakarṇi". This king bears here the same name as in the Maḷavalli inscription. However, there is this important thing to be remarked here, that the name of the family is given here as Vinbhukāḍadutu instead of Vinbhukāḍachutu, the word Dutu is therefore synonymous with Chutu. We know (see Rapson, page 59 and Pl. VIII., No. 235) some coins of a king called Dhutukalananda who belonged surely to the dynasty of the Chutus.

The inscription of Banavāsi says that king Śātakarṇi had a daughter who joined her son in making gift of a Nāga. The son was called Śāta or Śivaskanda-Nāga-Srī. An inscription at Kanheri (No. 1021 of Lüders's list), is a donation by Nāga-Mula-Nikā who was the daughter of the "great king" that reigned at this epoch. She was the wife of a Mahārathi and a more important detail is that she was the mother of prince Skanda-Nāga-Śāta. Mr. Rapson writing on this subject says (page LIII): "there can be no doubt that she is to be identified with the donor mentioned in the following inscription from Banavasi and that she was, therefore, the daughter of king Hārītiputra Vinbhukāḍa Chuṭu Śātakarṇi whose name must have stood originally in the present inscription". Kanheri being situated in Aparānta, there can be no doubt that the Chutus succeeded the Āndhris not only in Mysore but also in Aparānta, near Bombay.

The prince Skanda-Nāga-Śātaka or Śivaskanda-Nāga was not a Chuṭu because his mother was a Chuṭu princess. His father was a Mahārathi; to which dynasty did he belong? It is

probable that he was a descendant of the kings that reigned over the territory of Chitaldroog. We know that Chitaldroog is only about fifty miles east of Banavāsi, where we find the inscription of Śivaskanda-Nāga-Sāta, and to the west of Chitaldroog, on the site of an ancient city whose name is said to have been Chandravali where found in 1888 some leaden coins (Ep. Ind. Vol VII, p. 51, see plate III, fig A, B, C; and Rapson; Pl. VIII, No. 233 et page 57) which bear the name of Sadakana-Kaṣāya-Mahārāṭhi. The emblems are, on the obverse, a humped bull standing, and on the reverse, tree and chaitya. This Sadakana (Śātakarṇi) who bears the title of Mahārāṭhi is probably an ancestor of Mahārāṭhi Satakana or Sāta who made the grant of a Nāga at Banavāsi. In fact, both of them are Mahārāṭhis; they have the same title of Sāta, and they have both reigned in the same country, in the vicinity of Maṣavalli and Chitaldroog. The kings of this country were Nāgas; Mr. Rice says (Mysore and Coorg from inscriptions "page 202): "The early inhabitants of the country were "probably to a great extent, specially on the female side, Nāgas, "or serpent worshippers, that is, of the cobra, which is the "Nāga.....In the Śātavāhana inscription of Banavāsi of the "first or second century, the king's daughter is named Nāgaśrī "and she makes the gift of a Nāga". We may add that this queen is named Nāga-Mula-Nikā in the Kaṇhēri inscription, that her son's name was Skanda-Nāga-Sāta; that the Banavāsi inscription is engraved beside the image of a Nāga; and that the country around Maṣavalli and Banavāsi was once called Nāgakhanda. It is probable that these Mahārāṭhis-Nāgas who bore, like the Āndhras, the title of Śātakarṇi, are the Āndhrabhṛityas or servants of the Āndhras, who, as mentioned in the Purāṇas, succeeded the Śātavāhanas.

The Myākadoni inscription (Report on Epigraphy for 1915—16; Madras, G. O. No. 99; 29th Aug 1916, Part II, No. 1, page 112—inscription No. 509 of Appendix B.—See also Ep. Ind. Vol. XIV., page 153) says that this village was in the territory governed by the great general (Mahāsēnāpati) Kaṇḍanāka (Skanda-Nāga) and we know that Myākadoni is not far from Chitaldroog. The Myākadoni inscription is dated in the 8th year of the reign of Siri-Puṣumāvi. Who is this Puṣumāvi? It is noteworthy that we do not find here the name Vāsiṣṭhiputra

which is peculiar to the inscriptions of the son of Gautamiputra. Besides, the alphabet of the Myākadoni inscription is much less archaic than that of the inscriptions of great Puṣumāvi. Mr. V. S. Sukthankar of Poona who has edited the Myākadoni inscription has observed this detail: "The alphabet resembles that of the Joggayyapēṭa inc. of Purisadata" (Ep. Ind. Vol. XIV., page 153); and the inscriptions of Purisadata at Jaggayyapēṭa have been attributed to the III century by all the authors who have spoken of it and no one doubts that Purisadata reigned after the Śātavāhanas. The alphabet of the Myākadoni inscription is incontestably much more developed than the alphabets of all the other Śātavāhana inscriptions and very much resembles those of the Chutus and the ancient Pallavas. It is therefore very probable that the Puṣumāvi of the Myākadoni inscription is the last king of the Śātavāhana dynasty in the list given in the Matsya Purāṇa. The only objection that can be raised, is that the inscription is dated in the 8th year of his reign, whereas the Matsya Purāṇa gives him only a reign of 7 years. But we have already said that we must not rely on the duration of the reigns given in the Matsya Purāṇa; this objection is therefore worthless, and there are reasons to think that the Myākadoni inscription is dated in the reign of the last of the Śātavāhanas. In any case, we may affirm that this Puṣumāvi is not the son of Gautamiputra. We know the alphabet of this king from the Nāsik and Amarāvati inscriptions; and there is a very great difference between them and that of Myākadoni; I believe that there must be an interval of more than a century between the two Puṣumāvis, and that the Puṣumāvi of Myākadoni is certainly one of the later Śātavāhanas. The discovery of the Myākadoni inscription has a very important bearing on this subject; it enlightens the causes of the fall of the Śātavāhana dynasty: we learn, in fact, that in the 8th year of the last king of this dynasty, a certain Skanda-Nāga was the Mahāsēnāpati — that is to say the military governor — of all the country extending to the South of the Tuṅgabhadra not far from Chitaldroog and Banavāsi.

Śiva-Skanda-Nāga who is mentioned in the Banavāsi inscription had probably a glorious reign, as, even in the time of the Kaṭambas, they remembered his name; in fact, an

inscription at Maḷavalli (No. 1196 of Lüders's list), which is surely an inscription of an ancient Kadamba king, says that king Śivaskandavarman reigned over that country at one time (see the Plate in Ep. Carn. Vol. VII., facing the page 252).

Further, the celebrated Kadamba inscription at Tālgunḍa mentions a Śiva temple in that town "at which Śātakarṇi and other kings had formerly worshipped" (Ep. Ind., Vol. VIII., page 24).

We do not know any other name given to this dynasty except that of Śātakarṇi-Śiva-Skanda-Nāga.

The same Tālgunḍa inscription says that Mayūraśarman, the first king of the Kadamba dynasty, conquered the country by fighting with the Pallavas. It is therefore certain that the Nāgas were succeeded by the Pallavas.

No. 2—The early Pallava kings.

Three sets of copper-plates written in Prākṛit in a very archaic alphabet prove that, in the III century of the Christian era, there reigned on the southern banks of the Kṛishṇā, the dynasty of the Pallavas of Bhāradvāja gōtra who had Kāñchipuram for their capital.

(1) The plates found at Mayidavōlu (Guntūr district) (Ep. Ind. Vol. VI., page 84) say that in the 10th year of the reign of his father whose name is not given, the heir-apparent (Yuva-mahārāja) Śivaskandavarman gave an order to the governors of Dhāññakada, i. e. Amarāvati.

(2) The plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. I., page 2) found at Hiraḥaḍagalli (Bellary district) are dated in the 8th year of the reign of Śivaskandavarman who confirms a gift made by his father whose name is not given, but who is designated by the title of Bappa-dēva. These plates mention the province of Sātahani which we know (from the Myākadoni inscription) to be a portion of the Bellary district.

(3) The plates found in the Guntūr district (Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII., page 143) are dated in the reign of Vijayaskandavarman and commemorate a grant made by Chārudēvi, wife of the heir-apparent. (Yuva-mahārāja) Vijaya-Buddhavarman and mother of a prince whose name ends in "kura". J. F. Fleet

who was the first to edit these plates in the Indian Antiquary (see plate facing page 101 and note 23, page 101) has said : "two letters, containing the first part of a proper name, are illegible here". Dr. Hultzsch, in receding this document, believed he could read the whole name as Buddhyañkura. In that case, it seems to be a surname and not the name.

It is possible to identify Yuva-Mahārāja Śīva-Skandavarman of Māyidāvōlu with the king Śīva-Skandavarman of Hirahāḍagalli. The king is called Śīva-Skandavarman in the Hirahāḍagalli plates and Vijaya-Skandavarman in those of the Guntūr district. But the words Śīva and Vijaya are prefixes and we shall see in the Kadamba documents such names as Śīva-Mṛgēśavarman Śīva-Māndhātṛivarman, and also Śīva-Kṛṣṇa (Bennur plates; Belur, 245; Ep. Carn., Vol. V). We find even the prefix Śī-Vijaya-Śīva (Ep. Carn., Vol. VII., page 7.). Besides, a similar identification has been made in regard to the dynasty of the Nāgas: we have identified Śīva-Skanda-Nāga of Banavāsi with Skanda-Nāga of Kaṇhēri. The alphabet of the Hirahāḍagalli plates closely resembles that of Charudēvi's grant.

I therefore think that there is no serious difficulty in putting together the three documents, Māyidāvōlu, Hirahāḍagalli and Guntūr district and establishing the following genealogy :

A king

(designated by the title of "Bappa-Dēva" in the Hirahāḍagalli plates)

|
The king Skandavarman

(with the prefix Śīva in the Māyidāvōlu and Hirahāḍagalli plates; and with the prefix Vijaya in the plates of the Guntūr district.)

|
The prince Buddhavarman

(with the prefix "Vijaya"; husband of Charudēvi)

|
A prince

(designated by the surname of [Buddhyañ]kura in the plates of the Guntūr district).

In what epoch did these princes reign? It is certain that they succeeded the Śātavāhanas: in fact, the three docu-

ments prove that they reigned on the southern bank of the Krishnâ (particularly at Amarâvati) and in the Sâtâhani district; since the Śâtavâhana dynasty probably subsisted up to the first quarter of the III century, and since the Mâyidavôlu plates are certainly contemporaneous with those of Kondamûdi [it is certain that these plates were engraved, as we shall see, shortly after the fall of the Ândhras] it is probable that the king surnamed Bappa-dêva reigned in the second quarter of the III century (225-250 A. D.).

On the other hand we know that in 338 A. D. Samudra-Gupta had as his adversary a king of Kâñchi named Vishnugôpa. This king was therefore probably an immediate successor of [Buddhyañ]kura, if this prince ascended the throne.

Thus then, with the historical information in our possession, we can imagine the following chronology :

- (1) "Bappa-dêva" . . . 2nd quarter of the III century.
- (2) Skandavarman . . . 3rd quarter of the III century.
- (3) Buddhavarman . . . 4th quarter of the III century.
- (4) [Buddhyañ]kura . . . 1st quarter of the IV century.
- (5) Vishnugôpa . . . 2nd quarter of the IV century.

No. 3—The origin of the Pallavas.

Before handling the subject of the origin of the Pallavas, we must here specify an important point.

If we suppose that the word "Pallava" signifies a tribe, we must inquire by which invasion this tribe got possession of the kingdom of Kâñchipuram; if, we admit that the word "Pallava" is the name of a family, it is enough, to explain the presence of the Pallavas in Kâñchi, to find out by what political event one of the members of this family succeeded to the throne; here, no doubt is possible, because, the Mâyidavôlu, Hirahâḍagalli and Guntûr district plates, which come up to the III century of the Christian era, never mention a Pallava nation but only speak of a royal family one of whose members was king at Kâñchi, and we shall now proceed to answer the following question : what political event was it that placed on the throne a prince who belonged to a family named "Pallava" ?

In 1917 ("The Pallavas", page 23,) I drew the attention of the readers to a document which I think can give us the key to this problem : verse 6 of the Vêlûrpâlayam plates, (S. I. I., Vol II, Part V; page 510) in giving a summary of the history of the Pallavas, says that the first member of this dynasty that became king, got the throne by marrying the daughter of a Nâga king and that the son born of this union was named Skanda. Can this tradition that we find in the Pallava documents be verified by authentic history?

A large number of coins having for emblems the "ship with two masts" on the obverse and the "Ujjain symbol" on the reverse has been found on the Coromandel coast between Madras and Cuddalore. These ship-coins seem to be special to that part of the coast that is in the neighbourhood of Kâñchipuram. The "Ujjain symbol" indicates the Śâtavâhana dynasty. Mr. Rapson (page 22) has been able to decipher the inscription on these coins; he has read it to be "Śrī Puṣumâvi"; thus, all that part of the Coromandel coast which is in the vicinity of Kâñchipuram was under the domination of the Śâtavâhanas. So, the Pallavas established themselves at Kâñchipuram after the Śâtavâhanas. The alphabet of the Mâyidavôlu plates proves that Śiva-Skandavarman was nearly contemporary of the last Ândhra kings. So, it is at the time of the fall of the Śâtavâhanas that a member of the Pallava family ascended the throne of Kâñchi; it is quite possible that this first king was "Bappa-dêva" father of Śiva-Skandavarman. We also note that the son of "Bappa-dêva" was called Skanda and tradition has it that the first Pallava king having married a Nâga princess had a son named Skanda.

When speaking of the famous inscription of Bala-Śrī at Nâsik, we have said that Gautamîputra vanquished the Palhavas (Ep. Ind., Vol VIII., Pl I, No. 2, line 5) in 78 A. D. Again, we learn from the Girnar inscription that Suviśākha who was the minister of Rudradâman in 150 A. D. was a Pahlava (Junagadh inscription; Ep. Ind., Vol VIII., page 37 and Plate line 19). Thus the word which was written Palhava in 78 A. D. was written Pahlava in 150 A. D., and we note, when we see the Girnar inscription, that the compound letter "hla" resembles the double ll. Besides, in Mâyidavôlu plates written in Prâkrit: this question of letters has been solved in a very simple manner

they wrote Palava. This can correspond to Pallava for in Prākṛit the consonants are not doubled. In the Hirahadagalli plates it is written as Pallava though they are also in Prākṛit. Later on, when the documents were written in Sanskrit, the word Pallava will be understood to mean "sprout". The identity of names leads us to think that the ancient kings of Kāñchi belonged to the same family as the minister of Rudradāman. He lived in 150 A. D. and we know Pallava kings reigning at Kāñchi in about 225 A. D. How did a member of this family that we find in Smāshtra in 150 A. D. establish himself in Kāñchi? The Velūrpālayam plates give the answer to this question: a Pallava became king by marrying the daughter of a Nāga king; and all the documents in our possession regarding the Nāgas and the Pallavas seem to confirm this proposition. The Gurnar inscription says that Rudradāman reigned in the province of Aparānta, that is, in the neighbourhood of Kanhēri, and that his minister was a Pahlava; and it is in this same Aparānta in Kanhēri that we find: (1) the inscription of the daughter of Rudradāman, (2) the inscription of Nāga-Mula-Nika, mother of Skanda-Nāga-Śātakarṇi. The latter inscription is written in such an archaic alphabet that it was first believed to be an inscription of Puṣumāvi (Rapson, page LIII). Thus the minister of Rudradāman and the mother of the Nāga prince have lived almost at the same time and in the same country. We must not forget that the daughter of Rudradāman married a Śātakarṇi. Moreover, the Hirahadagalli plates have been found in the Bellary district, not far from Chitaldroog, where have been found the coins of the Mahārāṭhis; these plates are written in an alphabet almost identical with that of the Banavāsi inscription; the Hirahadagalli plates are dated in the reign of Śiva-Skanda-Pallava and the Banavāsi inscription mentions Śiva-Skanda-Nāga. Thus the Nāgas were the neighbours and the contemporaries of the Pallavas.

There is again a very peculiar point of resemblance between these two dynasties; we have said that Śiva-Skanda-Nāga was a Mahārāṭhi who reigned in the Chitaldroog region where the coins of a Mahārāṭhi have been found. These coins bear for emblem a "humped bull standing" (Ep. Ind. Vol. VII, page 51, plate III., figures A, B, C; and Rapson, Pl. VIII, No. 233, and page 57), and it is the "humped well standing"

that is represented in the seals of the Guntūr district plates of Skandavarman (see Ep. Ind., Vol VIII, plate facing page 144); we know that the bull was the crest of the Pallavas.

All that we have said above seem to show that a Pallava prince who was a native of the territory adjoining Aparānta married the daughter of Śiva-Skanda-Nāga, and became king of Kāñchī, after the downfall of the Śātavāhana dynasty; and that the son born of the marriage of the first Pallava king with the Nāga princess bore, according to the custom of the Hindus, the name of his grandfather Śiva-Skanda.

Upon the whole, the history of the Deccan in the III century is not well understood; however, all the documents in our possession seem to show that in the first quarter of the III century the last Śātavāhana king was called Pulūmāvi; the empire was governed by the Maharaṭhis who belonged to certain families that were related to one another and bore the names of Chuṭu, Nāga and Pallava; it is these families that replaced the Śātavāhanas.

§ 2. The expedition of Samudra-Gupta.

We know that a pillar in the fort of Allahābad contains an inscription which is not dated but which has been engraved during the reign of Samudra-Gupta. This inscription which is intended to glorify the emperor and which gives us the history of his reign has been published by J. F. Fleet in his work "Gupta inscriptions".

The interpretation of this inscription has given room to numerous errors and some of them great ones. A few of them have been corrected. For instance, the text contains the word "Kaurāḷa"; Fleet (Gupta Insc., page 7, footnote 1.) has said that this word "is obviously a mistake" and has corrected it into "Kairāḷa" and then into Kēraḷa; thence it has been concluded that Samudra-Gupta advanced as far as the Chēra kingdom in South India. This identification of Kaurāḷa with the Malabar coast seemed to be confirmed by two other identifications: Kauttura with Kōttūra = Pollāchi (Coimbatore District) [see J. R. A. S., 1897, page 29] and Palakka with Pālghāt. But now Kauttura is identified with Kothoor in Ganjām, and Palakka with a capital of the same name which was situated to the South of the Kṛishṇā and which is mentioned in many Pallava copper-plates (J. R. A. S., 1905, page 29). Moreover, I have myself, in 1917, in my work "The Pallavas," pages 14 and 15, said that the Pallavas reigned on the banks of the Kṛishṇā having their capital at Kāñchi; so, Samudra-Gupta was able to fight with Viṣṇugōpa of Kāñchi without any necessity to advance to the capital: and I ventured the opinion that they probably met on the banks of the Kṛishṇā and perhaps even in the north of the river as we may suppose that the Pallava king went forward to meet the Gupta emperor. Thus Samudra-Gupta's expedition turns out to be considerably reduced. However, I think that there are yet numerous errors to be corrected and that the whole history of Samudra-Gupta must be set right.

(1) Mr. Vincent A. Smith believes that Samudra-Gupta carried on his campaign in the valley of the Ganges before making that of the Deccan and that the latter ended about 350 A. D. However, the author of the inscription speaks of the expedition against the kings of Dakṣiṇāpāṭha before speaking of the expedition against the kings of Āryāvartta. I cannot but think that he has followed the chronological order; I am therefore of opinion that the expedition to the south took place at the beginning of the reign, about 335 or 340 A. D.

(2) Certain authors affirm that the hill Mahēndragiri is mentioned in the inscription. However, the passage "paishṭapuraka-mahendragirikauṭṭurakasvāmidatta" means: Mahēndra of Paishṭapura and Svāmidatta of Girikauṭtura, that is to say, the fort of Kottūra which is on the hill. There is therefore no reference in the inscription to the hill named Mahēndragiri.

(3) Mr. Kielhorn in studying the Aihole inscription (Ep. Ind., Vol. VI., No. 1, page 3) has identified "the water of Kunāḷa" mentioned in this inscription with the kingdom of Kaurāḷa mentioned in the Allāhābād inscription. This interpretation has been adopted without any discussion and now everybody admits that Samudra-Gupta defeated the king who was reigning "on the banks of the Kollēru (Colair) lake." I do not however see any reason why Kaurāḷa should be identified with Kunāḷa. The names themselves do not resemble each other. I think that the word Kaurāḷa must be read as Korāḷa and must be translated as "the Korāḷa kingdom" and that the Colair lake is not mentioned in the Allāhābād inscription.

(4) In 1898 (J. R. A. S., 1898, page 369) Fleet affirmed that Airāṇḍapalla must be identified with Eraṇḍōl, the chief town of a subdivision of the same name in the Khāndēsh district of the Bombay Presidency. The only proof was the similarity of the names. At once, all the historians admitted this interpretation and supposed that Samudra-Gupta, after having gone as far as Kāñchi returned to the North of India travelling through the vicinity of Bombay; and then, they identified the "Daivarāstra" of the Allāhābād inscription with Mahārāshṭra.

This identification of Airāṇḍapalla with Eraṇḍōl is surely wrong. In the Allāhābād inscription, Airāṇḍapalla is mentioned immediately after the citadel of Kottūra hill; it is therefore on the coast of Orissa that we must search for Eraṇḍapalla. The

Siddhantam plates of Dēvendravarman (Ep. Ind. Vol. XII, page 212) were issued to make a grant to an inhabitant of Eraṇḍapali, a town probably near Chicacole and which is, in all likelihood, the Airandapalla of the inscription of Samudra-Gupta.

(5) The identification of Dēvarāshtra with Mahārāshtra is quite wrong. A set of copper-plates discovered in 1908-9 (No. 14) at Kāsimkōṭa in the district of Vizagapatam mentions the grant made by the E. Chalukya king Bhima I. of a village situated in Elamañcha Kālīṅgadēśa which formed part of the province called Dēvarāshtra. "Elamañchi-Kālīṅgadēśa is perhaps to be interpreted as "the Kālīṅga-country of which Elamañchi" (The modern Yellamanchili) was the chief town" (see Report on Epigraphy for 1908-1909; G.O. n. 538; 28 July 1909. Part II, No. 59, page 109).

To conclude : a) Airandappalla is situated in the Ganjam district and Dēvarāshtra is in the Vizagapatam district. I think I have now proved that Samudra-Gupta never went to the western part of the Deccan.

So the Allāhābād inscription does not at all speak of Kēraḷa, Pollāchi, Pālghāt, Mahēndragiri, Colair lake, Eraṇḍōl in Kāndēsh and Mahārāshtra. All the kingdoms mentioned in the inscription are situated on the east coast of the Deccan. The expedition was solely confined to this coast. How far did Samudra-Gupta advance? Since Viṣṇugōpa of Kāñchi reigned on the banks of the Kṛishnā it is probable that he met with Samudra-Gupta in that region.

(6) It has always been admitted till now that the expedition of Samudra-Gupta was a very glorious one. However the inscription contains a detail which indicates the contrary : in fact, it is said that Samudra-Gupta captured the kings and afterwards released them; and it is confirmed by the fact that none of the kingdoms of the Deccan remained in the possession of the Guptas. It is probable that Samudra-Gupta first subjugated some kings, but that very soon he encountered superior forces and was therefore obliged to relinquish his conquests and return rapidly to his own state. After all those rectifications that we have just made, the expedition of Samudra-Gupta presents itself before our eyes in quite another form : it is no more a new Alexander marching victoriously through South

India; it was simply the unfortunate attempt of a king from the North who wanted to annex the coast of Orissa but completely failed. About A. D. 340, Samudra-Gupta left his capital Pataliputra and marched directly towards the South. First he conquered Southern Kōśala where the king Mahēndra was reigning in the vicinity of Sīrpur and Sombalpur. He then crossed the forests that are to the south of Sonpur and found there the small kingdom of Mahākāntara which means "the great forest" and where Vyāghra-rāja, "the tiger king" was reigning. Then he reached the coast of Orissa. Maṅṭarāja, king of Korāḷa, Mahēndra of Pīṣṭapura, Svāmudatta of Kōṭṭūra, a citadel on the top of a hill, and Damana of Etanḍapali tried to stop him but were captured. Samudra-Gupta now prepared to make new conquests when he was opposed by a confederacy of all the kings that reigned near the mouths of the Gōḍāvari and the Kṛishṇā, the most powerful of them being Viṣṇugōpa, the Pallava king of Kāñchi. The other kings were Nīlarāja of Āvamukta, Hastivaṃśa of Veṅgi, Ugrasēna of Palakka, Kubēra who reigned in Dēvaśāhira and Dhanañjaya whose capital was Kōṣṭhalapura. Samudra-Gupta being repulsed by the kings of the Eastern Deccan, abandoned the conquests he had made in the coast of Orissa and returned home.

Of all the kings mentioned in the Allāhābād inscription, there is only one who is known in other ways; it is Viṣṇugōpa of Kāñchi whose name figures in the Vāyalūr inscription (see *The Pallavas* pages 20 and 23).

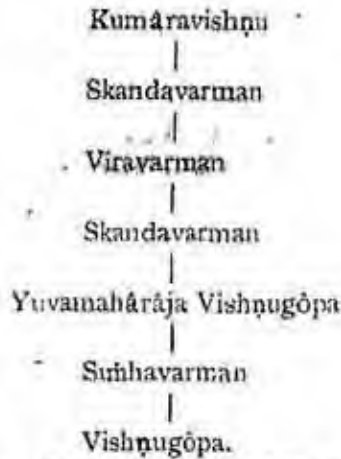
§ 3. The Pallavas from 340 to 610 A. D.

We now propose to study the history of the kings who have reigned after Vishnugôpa, the adversary of Samudra-Gupta about 340 A. D., up to Mahêndravarmān I, the adversary of Pulakeśin II. about 610 A. D.

In chapter II of my work "The Pallavas", I have shown that the Vāyalūr inscription enables us to construct the following genealogy :

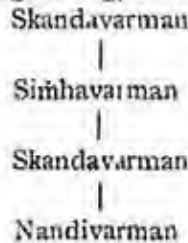


In fact, the Ōṁgōḍu No. 1 plates (G. O. No. 99, 29th Aug. 1916, Part II, No. 3), Ōṁgōḍu No. 2 (G. O. No. 99, 29th Aug. 1916, Part II, No. 4), Pikira (Ep. Ind., Vol VIII, p. 159,) Māṅgaḷūr (Ind. Ant., Vol. V, page 154) and Chūra (G. O. No. 920, 4th Aug. 1914, Part II, No. 1) give us the following genealogy :



It must be noted that the Chūra plates which are dated in the reign of the last king give him for grandfather Viṣṇugōpa with the title of Mahārāja, whereas the other documents call him Yuvamahārāja. This detail is of very little importance, for the documents sometimes give us incorrect details about the grandfather of a reigning sovereign. This genealogy can therefore be accepted with certainty.

The copper plates of Uruvupalli (Ind. Ant. Vol. V, page 20) give us the succession : Skandavarman, Viravarman, Skandavarman, Yuvamahārāja Viṣṇugōpa, which conforms absolutely to the one given above; but these plates are dated in the reign of a king named Sinhavarman whose relationship to the other kings is not given. The most natural supposition would be to take this Sinhavarman to be the elder brother of Yuvamahārāja Viṣṇugōpa and consequently the son of Skandavarman. The Udayendiram plates (Ep. Ind. Vol III. p. 142) give the following genealogy :



in which we find a Sinhavarman, son of a Skandavarman. One may therefore be tempted to believe that the Sinhavarman of the Udayendiram plates was the grandson of Viravarman.

The Vayālūr inscription (see "The Pallavas", chapter II) has thrown a final solution on this problem since it gives us the following series :

- (23) Viravarman,
- (24) Skandavarman,
- (25) Simhavarman,
- (26) Skandavarman,
- (27) Nandivarman.

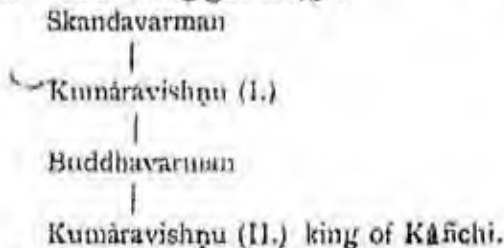
The Vélurpālaiyam plates (South Indian Inscriptions, Vol. II., Part V, give us a brief history of the Pallavas of Kāñchi ; after having spoken, in verse 9, of Nandivarman, these plates say: "Then from the king named Simhavarman...was born the victorious Simhavishnu". According to this passage it would appear that Simhavarman, the father of Simhavishnu was the successor but not the son of Nandivarman, because we have here "then" and not "from him" and this supposition has been completely confirmed by the Vāyalūr inscription which gives the following series :

- (29) Simhavarman,
- (30) Vishnugōpa,
- (31) Simhavarman,
- (32) Simhavishnu,
- (33) Mahēndravarmān (I).

Thus it follows that Simhavishnu was the grandson of Vishnugōpa of the Chōra plates. Indeed, in the Vāyalūr inscription, as well as in the Chōra plates, this Vishnugōpa figures as the son and successor of a king named Simhavarman.

So then, in my opinion, the genealogy I have given at the beginning of this chapter can be considered as correct.

We have thus utilised all the documents that we have, with the exception only of the Chendalūr plates (Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII, page 233), which give the following genealogy :



Up to this time, all the authors that have tried to connect

this genealogy with the one that we just examined have completely failed. I humbly confess that the theory I have propounded in my work "The Pallavas" pages 17 and 22 is entirely "untenable." I have supposed that these plates were a copy of a document dated at the beginning of the IV century. I now admit that this is not possible, for if the text of these plates belonged to circ. 300 A.D., it will probably be in Prākṛit; but the Chendalūr plates are in Sanskrit and their phraseology clearly points to the middle of the V century, that is to say, circ. 450 A.D.

Recently I made a special study of this question and these are the results I have arrived at :

(1) There is so great a resemblance between the phraseology of the Chendalūr plates and those of Uruvupalli that there can be no doubt that the two grants were nearly contemporaneous. Professor Hultzsh has remarked that whole sentences were common to both these documents.

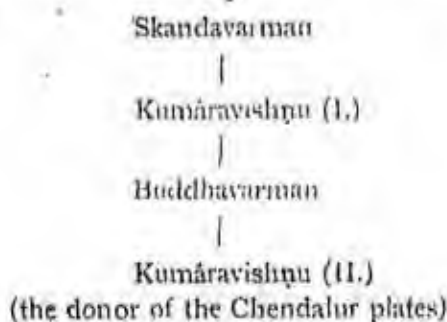
(2) From a palaeographic point of view, Professor Hultzsh has compared the alphabet of the Chendalūr plates and those of Uruvupalli, Māṅgalūr, Pīkīra and has established that the letters "ra" and "ka" seemed to be more developed in the Chendalūr document and that it must therefore be more modern. When I myself examined the alphabet of these four documents, I observed that, if the letters "ra" and "ka" were in fact developed a little more, there were as a set-off other letters such as "ha," "ya," etc, which were developed a little less and that all that one can say on comparing the letters individually is that the Chendalūr document was contemporaneous with the other three.

But, if, instead of comparing the letters, we compare the general aspect of the writings, the Chendalūr plates appear to be a little irregular and disorderly which is a characteristic of the ancient documents, whereas, the plates of Uruvupalli, Māṅgalūr, Pīkīra possess the order and regularity that belong to more modern writings. However, I do not believe that, in general, a comparison of the alphabets can give us any very correct information. Not only the plates of the Pallavas but also those of the Gaṅgas and the Kadambas prove that the alphabets differ much according to the scribes who have engraved the plates; and the documents of the same reign do

not sometimes resemble one another. Lastly, I think that there is no need to compare the Chendalūr plates dated from Kāñchīpuram with those of Uruvupallī dated from Palakkada, Māṅgaḷūr dated from Daśanapura, and Pikiṛa dated from Mēnmatura; the towns of Palakkada, Daśanapura and Mēnmatura were probably in the Guṇṭur district, that is, far away from Kāñchīpuram and the difference of the countries fully explains the difference in the alphabets.

(3) We have said that the Chendalūr plates were surely almost contemporaneous with those of Uruvupallī and we have also pointed out that the alphabet of the plates does not enable us to say if Kumāravishṇu II. of Chendalūr who reigned in Kāñchī was the predecessor or successor of Siṃhavarman of Uruvupallī who probably reigned at Kāñchī while his brother the Yuvamahārāja Viṣṇugōpa reigned over the province of Palakkada. Now we shall find that it is certain that Kumāravishṇu II. did not reign after Siṃhavarman. In fact, the grand-son of the latter, Nandivarman, reigned at Kāñchī (Uḍayendīram plates) and we learn from the grant of Velūrpāḷaiyam that Nandivarman had for successors Siṃhavarman and Siṃhavishṇu who was surely reigning at Kāñchī because he conquered the Chōḷa kingdom; after Siṃhavarman, we cannot find a place for the dynasty of Chendalūr. Besides, the Vāyalūr inscription places the series Skandavarman-Kumāravishṇu-Buddhavarman before the series Siṃhavarman-Skandavarman-Nandivarman; and the Velūrpāḷaiyam plates place Kumāravishṇu and Buddhavarman (mentioned in verse 8) before Viṣṇugōpa and Nandivarman (mentioned in verse 9).

There is therefore room to think that the series of kings :



have reigned at Kāñchi before the series :

Sinhavarman
(mentioned in the Uruvupalli plates)
|
Skandavarman
|
Nandivarman,

and owing to the resemblance between the Chendalūr and Uruvupalli plates, Kumāravishṇu II would have been the immediate predecessor of Sinhavarman at Kāñchi.

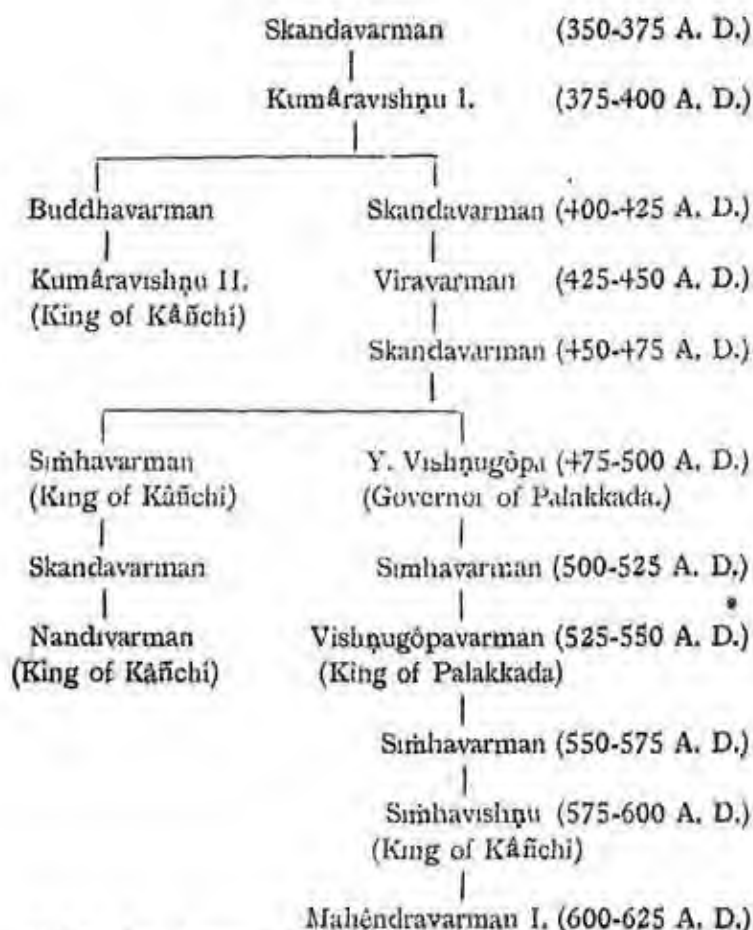
At the end of 1915, Mr. C. R. Krishnamachari, Telugu Assistant in the Epigraphical Office of Madras, has made a discovery which I consider to be of very great importance for the history of the Pallavas, I mean the discovery of the Ōṃgōḍu No. 1 plates (Report on Epigraphy, G.O. No. 99, 29th Aug. 1916; Part. II., page 113) which gives us the following genealogy :

Kumāravishṇu
|
Skandavarman
|
Viravarman
|
Skandavarman.

We must note, first of all, that the last of these kings did not probably reign at Kāñchi since the document is dated from Tāmbrāpa. Who then reigned at Kāñchi when Skandavarman reigned in the Guptūr district ? As this Skandavarman is the father of Sinhavarman and the Yuvamahārāja Vishnugōpa of the Uruvupalli plates, we may suppose that the king who reigned at the time of Viravarman and Skandavarman of Ōṃgōḍu No. 1 was Kumāravishṇu II of Chendalūr.

But there is something more : the Ōṃgōḍu No. 1 plates mention a king called Kumāravishṇu, a name which we find mentioned twice in the Chendalūr genealogy ; but since Kumāravishṇu II. probably reigned at the time of Viravarman and his son Skanda, it is Kumāravishṇu I. who can be identified with the one of Ōṃgōḍu No. 1.

So we obtain the following genealogy which agrees with all the documents that we possess :



It is to be observed that in the *Ōṃgōḍu* No. 1 plates the name of Viravarman is not preceded by any title. It is therefore probable that he did not reign but died young: so that Kumāravishṇu II of Kāñchi was the contemporary of Skandavarman of Tambrāpa and the immediate predecessor, at Kāñchi, of Simhavarman.

In the chronology given above, we have admitted that Mahēndravarman I. ascended the throne about 600 A. D. and we have allowed for each generation an average of 25 years.

It is probable that the first of these kings, Skandavarman (350-375), was the son and successor of Viṣṇugōpa of Kāñchi who reigned there from 325 to 350 at the time of Samudra-Gupta.

It is more easy for us to construct the genealogy of these

kings than to compile their history, because the copper-plates give us always the names of the great-grandfather, the grandfather and the father of the donor, but these names are not followed by any historical details. They have words of praise added to them which are purely conventional and are applied indiscriminately in a haphazard manner to any king.

The only thing we know is that from 400 A.D. to 550 A.D. the empire remained always divided into two kingdoms: *Toṇḍaimaṇḍalam* in the south with *Kāñchi* for its capital and the present districts of *Guṇṭūr* and *Nellore* in the north with *Tāmbraṇa*, *Palakkada*, *Menmaturā* and *Daśanapura* for capitals.

We can also have some additional information when we proceed to study the *Gaṅgas* and the *Kadambas*.

From the time of *Siṃhavishṇu* the history of the *Pallavas* becomes clear. I think it is useless to repeat here what I have said in my book "*The Pallavas*," page 36; I shall be content with saying here again that *Siṃhavishṇu* vanquished the *Malaya*, *Kaḷabhra*, *Mālava*, *Chōḷa*, *Pāṇḍya* and *Siṃhala* king and the *Kēraṇṇas*, conquered the *Chōḷa* kingdom and took possession of the banks of the *Kāvēri*; that *Mahēndra* was pursued by *Pulakēśin II.* up to the banks of the *Kāvēri*, that he succeeded in defeating his adversary at the battle of *Pullalūr* and preserved the country of *Kāñchi*; but he lost the districts of *Guṇṭūr* and *Nellore* which remained in the hands of the *Chāḷukyas*.

Concerning the *Pallava* civilisation at the time of *Mahēndravarmān I.*, I request the reader to refer to the following works :

Concerning Architecture : "*Mahēndravarmān inscription at Conjeeveram*," Pondichery 1919.

Concerning Sculpture : "*Pallava Antiquities*" Vol. I. Chapter II.

Concerning Drama : "*The Mattavilāsaprahasana*," *Trivandram Sanskrit Series No. L V.*

Concerning Poesy and Music : "*The Pallavas*" page 39.

Concerning Painting and Dance : "My forthcoming paper entitled "*Pallava painting*," concerning the fresco-paintings at *Śittannāvāsāl*.

GENEALOGY OF THE PALLAVAS



CHAPTER IV.

THE DYNASTIES OF CENTRAL DECCAN.

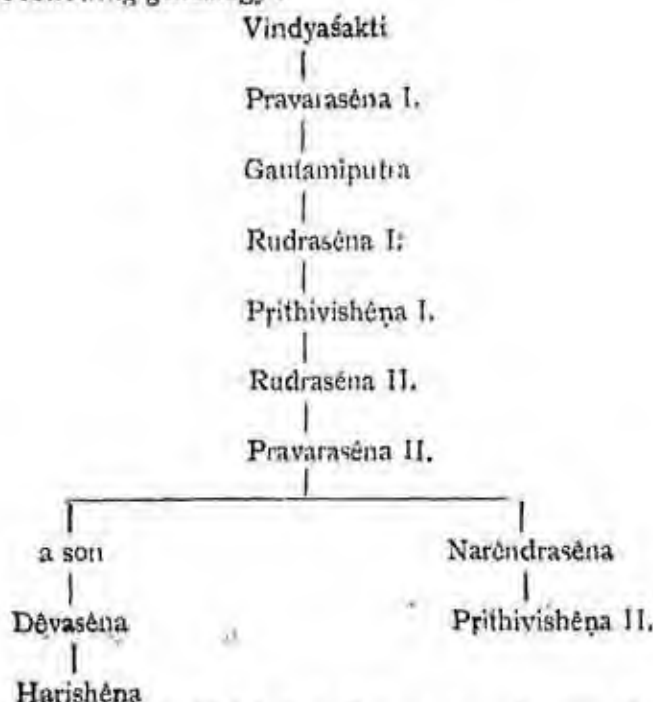
§ 1. The Vākātakas.

Till now, no one has thought of classing the Vākātakas among the dynasties of Deccan; it was believed that it was a dynasty that had to be studied with the dynasties of the North. An example of this error is given by Kielhorn who classes the Vākātaka inscriptions (nos. 618 to 624) under the rubric "Inscriptions of Northern India".

Now then, I wish to make the following declaration: when trying to compile the ancient history of the Deccan, I have come to the conclusion that the Vākātakas must be classed among the dynasties of the Deccan; and what is more, I can affirm that, of all the dynasties of the Deccan that have reigned from the III to the VI century, the most glorious, the most important, the one that must be given the place of honour, the one that has excelled all others, the one that has had the greatest influence on the civilisation of the whole of the Deccan, is unquestionably the illustrious dynasty of the Vākātakas.

The undermentioned documents: Chammak (Gupta Inscriptions, No. 55, p. 235), Siwani (Gupta Inscriptions, No. 56 p. 243), Dudia (Ep. Ind., Vol III, p. 258), Bālāghāt (Ep. Ind., Vol. IX, p. 268), Professor K. B. Pāthak's plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. XLI, 1912, p. 215), two inscriptions at Ajantā (A. S. W. I. IV, pp. 53, 124 and 129), and the inscription in the Ghatotkacha cave at Guwārā (A. S. W. I., vol IX, pp. 64 and 138) give us

the following genealogy :



The first Mahārāja, Pravarasēna I. was the son of Vindyaśakti, "the banner of the Vākātaka race" mentioned in the Ajantā (A. S. W. I., IV, p. 124) inscription without any royal title. Pravarasēna I. performed sacrifices, especially *Aśvamedha*. Gautamiputra, who died probably before his father, as is seen by his never being a Mahārāja, married the daughter of Bhavanāga, king of the Bhāraśiyas, "who were besprinkled on the forehead with the pure water of Bhāgirathī (the Gaṅgā)". It is probable that Bhavanāga who reigned near the Ganges belonged to the family of the Nāgas of Padmāvali.

We know nothing about Rudrasēna I. His son Prithivishēṇa reigned for a long time. Mr. Vincent A. Smith attributes an inscription (Gupta Inscriptions, No. 53 and 54, page 233) at Nāchnā to this king; but when writing, Mr. Vincent A. Smith has not taken into account the Bālāghat plates which show that there was a second Prithivishēṇa. Is the Nāchnā stone dated in the time of Prithivishēṇa I. or Prithivishēṇa II? Judging from the form of the letters I would attribute it rather to the second; the small circle at the head of the letters seems

to point rather to the V than to the IV century [for the History of the Vākātakas by Mr. Vincent A. Smith, see J. R. A. S. ; April 1914, page 317].

The 8th verse of the Ajaṇṭā inscription says that Prithivishēṇa I. vanquished the king of Kuntāḷa, i. e., the Kādāmba king.

The passage that follows it is so badly damaged that we can read nothing therein. The name of Rudrasēna II. is not visible; but it is not probable it has been omitted. In fact, this prince had the honour of marrying Prabhāvatī, daughter of Chandra-Gupta II. the illustrious emperor of the Gupta dynasty. Mr. Vincent A. Smith (J. R. A. S. ; 1914, p. 326) thinks that this marriage took place about 395 A. D. and we shall admit this date. It was at this time that Chandra-Gupta II. took possession of the kingdom of the Western Satrapas, and it is certain that the Vākāṭaka empire adjoined that of the Western Satrapas; and the conclusion of Mr. Vincent A. Smith, which is very important for the chronology of the dynasty, is probably the right one.

Professor K. B. Pāthak's plates (Ind. Ant., 1912, page 215) is a grant of land issued by Queen Prabhāvatī, widow of Rudrasēna II, during the minority of her son the Yuvarāja Divakārasena. It seems therefore that Rudrasēna II. died shortly after his marriage and that about the year 400 A. D. the queen Prabhāvatī, the glorious daughter of the Gupta emperor was the regent of the Vākāṭaka kingdom. We have said that Prithivishēṇa I. vanquished the king of Kuntāḷa; and Kuntāḷa is the empire of the Kādāmbas: the town of Halsi, in Belgaum district, which was at one time called Palāśikā (Halasige) was originally in the Kuntāḷa kingdom (Ep. Ind. Vol XIII., p. 299; Kādāmba inscription, verses 58-62). The Vākātakas were the neighbours of the Kādāmbas and the Vākāṭaka kingdom extended up to the modern town of Kurnool on the banks of the Kṛishṇā. We know that the famous temple of Śrīśaila or Śrī-Parvata is in the Kurnool district; and a "story, as related" in the Sthala Māhātmya of the place, says that the princess "Chandravati, a daughter of the Gupta king Chandragupta" conceived a passion for the God on the Śrīśaila hill and "began offering every day a garland of jasmine (mallikā) "flowers to him" (Report on Epigraphy for 1914-1915-G. O.

No. 1260, 25th Aug. 1915, Part II, No. 13, page 91). This information is very precious as throwing light on the origin of the dynasty of the Vishnukundins that we shall study further. In fact, we shall see that this dynasty had for its tutelary deity, the God of Śrī-Parvata; and that the first king of this dynasty, Mādhavavarman married a Vishnukundin princess. I think there can be no doubt that this princess was the daughter or the grand daughter of queen Prābhavati or Chandravati who was the daughter of the Gupta emperor, wife of Rudrasēna II. mother of Pravarasēna II. and a votary of the God of Śrī-Parvata. It is probably during the reign of Pravarasēna II. that the Vākātakas who reigned over almost the whole of the modern State of Hayderabad, succeeded in founding the dynasty of the Vishnukundins by placing on the throne of Vēṅgi, Mādhavavarman I who was the husband of a Vākāṭaka princess and an adorer of the God of Śrī-Parvata.

We do not know if the Yuvarāja Divakarasēna ascended the throne. We only know for certain that a son of Rudrasēna II. reigned under the name Pravarasēna II. The poet Bana in his introduction to Harshacharita mentions, among the most famous poets that had preceeded him, Pravarasēna who was the author of a work called Sētukavya. The capital of Pravarasēna was called Pravarapura and was probably founded by that king. It is certain that Pravarasēna II. reigned in the south of Jabalpur (Jubbulpore) in the country in which we now find the towns of Seoni (Seoni) and Elichpur (Ilichpur). The Narbadā separated his kingdom from that of the Guptas. Chammak (Charmāṅka) is situated on the banks of Mahānadi Gupta Insc., page 241). We have said that the Vākāṭka empire extended further south. In 450 A. D. the Vākāṭaka empire had the following boundaries : in the north it was separated by the Narbadā from the kingdom of Ujjain where reigned the illustrious emperor Kumāra-Gupta I. In the east was the vassal state of Raypur of which we shall speak further : the king Mahā-Sudēva had Śarabhapura for his capital. In the south-east was situated the kingdom of the Vishnukundins over which Mādhavavarman I was reigning at Vēṅgi. In the south west, the river Bhīmā separated the Vākāṭakas empire from that of the Kādambas whose king Śāntivarman was the " master of the entire Kārṇāṭa region";

one of his capitals was Palāsikā (Halsi in Belgaum). In the west the Traikūṭas occupied the coast province of Aparānta. Thus the Vākātakas reigned over an empire that occupied a very central position and it is through this dynasty that the high civilisation of the Gupta empire and the Sanskrit culture in particular spread throughout the Deccan. Between 400 A. D. and 500 A. D. the Vākātakas occupied a predominant position and we may say that "*In the history of the Deccan the V century is the century of the Vākātakas*".

The alphabet of the plates of this dynasty is very peculiar: it is "box-headed". We shall have occasion to revert to this subject when speaking of the Kadambas.

According to the Ajaṇṭā inscription, the son of Pravara-sēna II, whose name has been lost, must have ascended the throne when he was 8 years old (Arch. Surv. West. Ind., Vol. IV., page 125). It is probable that this prince was dethroned by his younger brother Nārēndrasēna. In fact, the Bālāghat plates say that Nārēndrasēna "appropriated or took away the family's fortune." Nārēndrasēna was married to Ajjhitabhāṭṭā-rikā, daughter of the king of Kuntala. This marriage took place probably about 445 A. D. We have admitted that Rudra-sēna II married the daughter of Chandra-Gupta II about 395 A. D. It is probable that the marriage of the grandson took place about 50 years after; we shall see later on that this king of Kuntala was probably the Kadamba Kakusthavarman. The Bālāghat plates say about Nārēndrasēna that "his commands were honoured by the lords of Kōsala, Mēkala and Mālava, and he held in check enemies bowed down by his prowess." This latter event took place after 467 A. D. It is impossible that Nārēndrasēna should be able to give orders to the Mālava king before this date: in fact, from 455 to 467 A. D., the king of Ujjain was the illustrious Skanda-Gupta Vikramāditya (Mr. Panna Lal in "The dates of Skanda-Gupta and his successors," Hindustan Review, Jan. 1918, argues that the reign of Skanda-Gupta ended about A. D. 467. See also, "Annals of the Bhandarkar Institute 1918-19, Vol. I, Part I, page 69). From 484 to 494 A. D. the country situated between the Jamnā and the Narmadā was under the orders of Budha-Gupta.

Prithivishēna II, son of Nārēndrasēna, was reigning at the time when the Bālāghat plates were engraved.

It is impossible to know if Dēvasēna reigned at the same time as Pr̥thivishēna II or after ; it was probably at the end of the V century. The minister of Dēvasēna was Hastibhoja who probably dug the Ghaṭotkacha cave at Gulwārā, eleven miles W. of Ajantā.

Harishēna, son of Dēvasēna reigned probably about 500 to 530 A. D. It is probable that this king made conquests in all directions, since the Ajantā inscription mentions Kuntalā (the Kadamba kingdom) Avanti (Mālwa), Kaliṅga, Kosala, Trikutā, Lāṭa and Āndhra. These events probably took place from 500 to 515 A. D. In fact it is about 500 A. D. that Rāvivarman killed Sri-Vishṇuvarman, who was reigning at Pālāśikā ; Harivarman might have contributed to the struggle against the king of Kuntalā. In the VI century we have not a single document of the Traikūṭas. It is therefore probable that they were destroyed by Harishēna at the beginning of this century. It is also probable that it was at the beginning of the VI century that Indra of Kaliṅga fought with Indra the Vishṇukundin ; and possibly Harishēna had to interfere in the affairs of the Kaliṅga and the Āndhra (between the Gōdāvarī and the Kṛishṇā). Again, an inscription of Eran (Gupta Insc., p.93), dated 510-511 mentions a fight in which Bhānu-Gupta was allied with the king of Śarabha i.e. the king of Kosala. It is perhaps at this time that Harishēna fought with the kings of Avanti (Mālwa) and Mēkala (the Nabadā).

It is probable that the Vākāṭaka dynasty was replaced, in the middle of the VI century, by that of the Kaṭachuris who held possession of all the country between Nāsik and Ujjain in the second half of the VI century.

§ 2. The kings of Śarabhapura.

The seal of the Khariar plates (Ep. Ind. Vol. IX, page 171) bears the following genealogy :

Prasanna
|
Mānamātra
|
Mahā Sudēva

Dr. Von Konow in editing these plates, has observed that the word Mānamātra was synonymous with Mānañka, the words Mātra and Añka meaning "ornament," and the Uṇḍivāṭika plates give us the following genealogy (Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII, p. 163 and Ind. Ant. Vol. XXX):

Mānañka
|
Dévarāja
|
Bhavishya
|
Abhimanyu.

The king Dévarāja had many sons of whom Bhavishya was one. Abhimanyu resided at Mānapuram (Māna-town) which is identified with Mānpur (lat. 23°46' ; long. 81°11' E ; see Gupta Inscriptions, page 136) near Bandhogarh in Rêwa. The Uṇḍivāṭika plates were issued to make a grant to the temple of [Pēṭha]- Paṅgaraka which has been identified with Pagara near Pachmarhi (Sohagpur Tahsil ; Hoshangabad Dist ; Central Provinces). The king Mānañka is described as being "the ornament of the Rashtrakūṭas." We have thus the two following series :

(*Khariar plates*)

Mānamātra

|

Mahā Sudēva

(*Undivālīka plates*)

Mānanka

|

Dēvarāja

Three documents, the Khariar (Ep. Ind., Vol. IX; page 170) Raipur (Gupta Inscriptions, page 196) and Śārangarh (Ep. Ind., Vol IX, page 281) copper plates, speak of king Sudēva (Mahā-Sudēva-rāja) who had Śarabhapura for his capital; this town cannot be identified; however, it is probable that this king reigned in the neighbourhood of the modern town of Raypur which is situated to the south of the Mahānadi and near its source. This kingdom was therefore situated between Kalīnga in the east and the kingdom of the Vākātakas in the west. It is also very probable that the kings of Śarabhapura were the vassals of the Vākātakas.

It is also from Śarabhapura that were issued the Arang plates (Gupta Inscriptions, page 191) which speak of the king Jaya (Jayarāja). This king was almost the contemporary of Sudēva, since the alphabets resemble each other. However it is impossible to know the relationship that existed between these two princes.

The alphabet of the plates issued from Śarabhapura has a peculiar characteristic; it is box-headed as in the Siwani plates (Gupta Inscriptions, page 243) which are dated in the reign of Pravarasēna II.

I believe we can place the two kings Sudēva and Jaya approximately in the second half of the V century.

It is possible that their kingdom was the Southern Kōsala.

An inscription of Eran (Gupta Inscriptions, page 93) gives us the following genealogy :

.....rāja

|

Mādhava

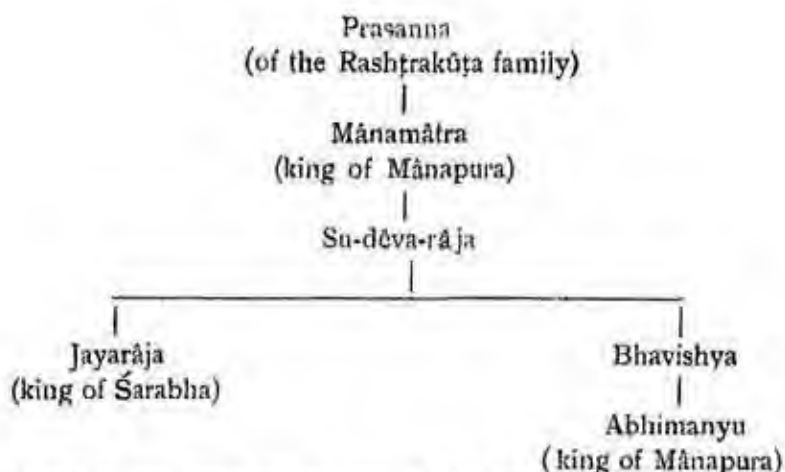
who married the daughter of the king of Śarabha,

|

Gōparāja

who was the ally of Bhānu-Gupta and was killed a little before the year 510-511 A. D.

To sum up, we know very little about this dynasty. However, we may suppose—it is only a hypothesis—that the genealogy was as follows :



Jayarāja was perhaps the son of Sudēva, as the Uṇḍivātika plates say that Dēvarāja had many sons and it therefore appears that Bhavishya was not the eldest.



CHAPTER V.

THE DYNASTIES OF WESTERN DECCAN.

§ 1. The Âbhīras.

At the end of the II century and the first half of the III century the Âbhīras were powerful in Gujarât and Kâthiâwar. An inscription (Ind. Ant. Vol X., page 157) of the Western Kshatrapas dated 181 A.D. (Ś. 103) is a donation by "general (senâpati) Rudrabhūti, who was an Âbhīra and the son of general Bâhaka. In Mâlhwâ, in Gujarât and in Kâthiâwar have been found silver coins of a king named Îśvaradatta. Mr. Rapson (page CXXXVI) says : "there can be little doubt then that Îśvaradatta reigned some time between A. D. 236 and A. D. 239." Besides, it seems that the power of the Western Kshatrapas began to decline at this epoch : "Already in this reign (of Vijayasēna) appear the first symptoms of a decline about the year 167 or 168 (A. D. 245-246)" (Rapson, page 137). At Nâsik (Ep. Ind. Vol. VIII., page 88) there is an inscription (No. 1137 of Lûders's list) dated in the 9th year of Mâḍhariputra Îśvarasēna, an Âbhīra, son of Śīvadatta. The latter is not mentioned as being a king. It would therefore appear that Îśvarasēna founded the Âbhīra dynasty.

Is this Âbhīra named Îśvarasēna the same as the king Îśvaradatta of the coins, who, towards the middle of the III century founded the Âbhīra dynasty and carved out for himself a kingdom extending over Kâthiâwar and the Nâsik region ?

§ 3. The Traikūṭas,

This dynasty (see Rapson, sections 42, 132, 134) reigned on the coast north of Bombay.

They have found (J. B. B. R. A. S., 1914, Vol. XXIII., pages 1 to 7) some coins that mention a certain king named Indradatta and his son Dahragana, some other coins that mention a king called Indradatta and his son Dahrasēna and a few others that mention Dahragana and his son Vyâghragana.

The Pardi plates (J. B. B. R. A. S., Vol. XVI, Art. XIX; page 346) are dated in the reign of Dahrasēna and in the 207th year of the era used by the Traikūṭas.

The Surat plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. XI, page 219) are dated in the reign of Vyaghrasēna in the year 241 and the plates discovered at Kanhēri by Mr. Bird are dated in the year 245.

It is admitted that the era used by the Traikūṭas is nothing but the Kaṭachuri or Chēdi era which begins on the 5th September 248 A.D. (Ep. Ind., Vol. IX, page 129). So Dahrasēna reigned in 455-6 A.D; Vyaghrasēna in 489-90 and the Kanhēri plates are dated in the year 493-494 A.D. It is quite possible that this era was not founded by the Traikūṭas; it was perhaps founded by the Âbhīras.

A close examination of these documents enables us to admit that the kings whose name ends in "gana" may be identified with those whose name ends in "sēna".

Thus we have the following genealogy :

Indradatta

|

Dahrasēna (who reigned in 455 A.D.)

|

Vyaghrasēna (who reigned in 490 A.D.)

The Traikūṭa is mentioned by Kālidāsa.

The Vākātaka Harishēna conquered it.

The Pardi plates have been issued from the town of Âmrakā and the Surat plates from Âmrudhapura.

§ 4. The Kaḷachuris.

The Abhona plates (Ep. Ind. Vol VI., page 294) and Sarsavni plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. VI., page 295) give us the following genealogy :

Kṛishṇarāja

|

Śaṁkaragana (who reigned in 595 A.D.)

|

Buddharāja (who reigned in 610 A.D.)

These kings use the special era we have already spoken of.

We have a coin of Kṛishṇarāja (Prog. Rep. Arch. Surv. West. Ind. for 1914-15, page 60).

It seems that the reign of Śaṁkaragana was glorious : the Abhona plates tell us that he had his capital at Ujjain and reigned over the Nāsik regions which denotes a vast empire.

The chief Nirihullaka reigned in the lower Narmadā valley about 580 A. D., and was a feudatory (Śaṅkhiḍa grant; Ep. Ind., Vol. II., page 22) of Śaṁkaragana. Nirihullaka was perhaps a descendant of Saṁgamasimha who was king of Barakuchcha in 292 i. e. 530-531 A. D. (Sunao-Kala plates).

Buddharāja probably met with great reverses : before the year A.D. 601 (Bādāmi inscription) the king Maṅgalēśa of the Chalukya dynasty vanquished him. In 609 A.D. he reigned at Vidiśa (Bēsnagar, near Bhilsā, Vadner plates). In 610 A.D. (Sarsavni plates) he reigned at Ānandapura (Ānand in Kaira dist.; Ep. Ind., Vol. VI., page 297) and gave orders about the Barukachcha-vishaya.

We know (Aihole inscription) that Pulakēśin II vanquished Lāta, Gujarat and Mālwa.

CHAPTER VI.

THE DYNASTIES OF EASTERN DECCAN.

† 1.—The Ikshvākus.

Three inscriptions (Ind. Ant., Vol XI, page 256) found ("Amarāvati and Jagayyapēta Stūpa", Arch. Surv. Southern India, page 110) on the ruins of the stūpa at Jagayyapēta (Nandigāma Taluk, Kṛishṇā district) give the name of a king called Mādhariputra Śī Vira Purushadatta (Purisadata) of the Ikshvākus (Ikshākus) and are in an alphabet which seems to point to the III century of the Christian era.

What became of this dynasty later on, it is impossible to say. However, there exists a stone in Guḍḍappa dry land at Aṇaji in the Dāvaṇagere taluq of Mysore (Ep. Carn., Vol. XI, Dg, No. 161) which mentions "the family of the Kēkayas, who made intermarriages with the Ikshvākus."

§ 2. The Bṛihatphalāyanas.

The Koṇḍamudi plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. VI., p. 315) are dated in the 10th year of king Jayavarman, of the Bṛihatphalāyanas, who reigned at Kudūra. The alphabet of these plates is extremely archaic; they are in prākṛit; besides, "the language and phraseology of the inscription are so similar to the Nāsik inscriptions of Gautamīputra Śātakarṇi and of Vāsishthiputra Puṣumāyi, that Jayavarman's date cannot have been very distant from that of those two Āndhra kings" (Ep. Ind Vol. VII, No. 31, page 315). It must however be noted that the legend on the seal is in Sanskrit. It is therefore certain that Jayavarman reigned immediately after the Śātavāhanas.

The Koṇḍamudi plates record the grant of the village of ~~Pāṇḍura~~ in Kudūrahāra which is the province, as we know, of which Kudūra was the capital. Where were this province and especially this town of Kudūra situated? Koṇḍamudi, where the plates have been found, is situated in the Tenali taluq which is not far from the mouth of the Kṛishṇā. The town of Kudūra is found mentioned in an inscription at Amarāvati (No. 1295 of Lüders's list). The country of Kuduhāra or Kudrahāra is mentioned in the plates of Nandivarman of the Śālaṅkāyana dynasty. These plates were issued from Vāṅgi and have been found near the Kolleru lake (Ind. Ant., Vol V, 1876, page 175. See also Burnell, "South Indian Palæography, 2^e Ed. page 135.) The country called Kudrahāra or Guḍrahara is referred to in many documents (see in particular : Ind. Ant., Vol XIII, page 138, line 17; Ind. Ant., Vol VII, page 191, line 12, and the Reṇḍuballī copper-plate, Rep. on Epigraphy for 1914-1915, G. O. No. 1260, Public, 25th Aug. 1915, page 8, copper-plate No. 2 of 1915) The geographical indications given by these documents [see also : Ind. Ant., Vol VIII, page 76; S. I. I. Vol I, page 47; and inscriptions Nos 539 and 544 of 1893]

show that Kudūrahāra or Guḍrahāra is the country adjoining the modern town of Masulipatam (Bandar.)

Besides, there have been found at Masulipatam (Bandar Taluk) four sets of copper-plates that give information about this country :

(1) The grant of Amma II. (S. I. I., Vol I., page 47) containing an order to the people living in Guḍravāra-vishaya.

(2) The plates of Vijayāditya III. (Ind. Ant., Vol. XX, page 103, and Ep. Ind., Vol. V., page 122) granting the village of Triṇḍapāru situated in the Guḍravāra-vishaya.

(3) The plates of Bhima II. (Ind. Ant., Vol. XX., page 270, and Ep. Ind., Vol. V., page 135) granting a field in Guḍravāra-vishaya.

(4) The plates of Amma II. (Ind. Ant., Vol. VIII, page 74 ; and Vol. XX, p. 271 ; Ep. Ind., Vol. V., page 139) granting land. The last document is interesting as it shows the precise position of the land : it was situated beside the village of Pāmbarru in the Guḍravāra-vishaya and near Ghaṇṭasāla ; again this grant of land was made to a chief "for having improved the town of Guḍravāra" ; we know that Ghaṇṭasāla, which was situated in Guḍravāra-vishaya is a village in the Divi taluq situated at a distance of 10 miles from Masulipatam (Bandar) and 6 miles from the village of Kūdūru.

We shall therefore conclude that the town of Kudūra, which was the capital of Jayavarman in the III century of the Christian era, is but the modern village which is 4 miles west-north-west of Masulipatam and 6 miles from the village of Gaṇṭhasāla and is mentioned under the name of Kūdūru (Z) in the list of villages of Bandar (Masulipatam) taluq (see "List of villages of the Madras Presidency," 1914, page 150). The village named Pāṇṭura in the Koṇḍamudi plates, is perhaps Panduru, a village in the Bandar (Masulipatam) taluq.

It so happens that the result we have arrived at is found to be of immense importance not only for the ancient history of the Deccan but also of Indo-China.

We know that the civilisation of Indo-China is of Indian origin and a study of the Indo-Chinese documents has proved that the civilisation of Indo-China came almost exclusively from the Deccan. The Indo-Chinese inscriptions are dated in the Śaka era and their alphabets very closely resemble those of the

inscriptions in the Deccan. Such an inscription of Cambodia (see, "Journal Asiatique" VIIe série, Tome XX., No. 2, Août-Septembre 1882) dated in the Śaka year 589 "essentially agrees with those of the first Chālukyas from the sixth to the eighth century." The alphabet of the most ancient inscriptions found in Annam fully resembles, as has been remarked by M. Abel Bergaigne (Journal Asiatique, Janvier 1888, page 15) the alphabets of the inscriptions of the kings of Vēṅgi, the Pallavas and the first Kadambas. Again, certain inscriptions (for example Nos 415 and 415 bis, XXI of the collection mentioned by Mr. Bergaigne) are characterised by a peculiarity which is called the "box-headed" alphabet and M. Bergaigne observes that "the relations between the Champā kingdom and those of Southern India were so frequent that the alphabet changed there in the same manner. We shall even see that a simple ornamental appendage, a deeply cut square at the head of the letters which, in India proper, seems to have been in fashion during almost the whole of the V century finds its way into our XXI inscription.

It must first be noted that this influence existed in the II century of the Christian era :

(1) The inscription of Mura-rāja or Śrī Mata, king of the Champās, which is found near the village of Vo-can, in the Nhatrang valley in the province of Krah-Hoo (Journal Asiatique, Janv.-Fevrier 1891, page 17) in Annam, is written in Sanskrit and in an alphabet that is identical with that of the inscription of Rudradāman at Gīrnār.

(2) Ptolemy gives the names of the towns situated on the coast of Annam that were not simply Indian but were also Sanskrit (Journal Asiatique-Rapport Annuel; Juillet-Août 1888, page 70).

We thus arrive at the following very important conclusion : "The Indo-Chinese civilisation did not come from every place in India, but, from a port of the Deccan whence the travellers embarked for Indo-China".

Where was this port situated ? That is the important problem we are now going to solve. This port was existing at the time of Ptolemy, and is found mentioned by this geographer. In fact, this is how Ptolemy describes the east coast of the Deccan (see Ind. Ant., Vol. XIII., page 332) : "Mouth of the river

Khabéros—Khabêris—Sabouras—Podoukè—Melangè—Mouth of the river Tyna—Kottis—Manarpha—Mouth of the river Maisôlus—Kontakossyla, a mart—Koddura—Allosygnè—The point of départure for ships bound for Khrysè—Pafoura—Naingaïna—Katikardama—Kannagara—Mouth of the river Madanâ”.

We see that, in the II century, Ptolemy has said that the ships that wanted to go to the country of gold (Khrysè) i. e. the Indo-Chinese peninsula (Burma, Malacca, Cambodia, Annam) started from a fixed point (locus unde solvunt in Chrysen navigantes). Till now there was complete uncertainty in regard to the geographical position of this port. There was no doubt at all that “Khabêris-emporium” designated the town of Kāv’ripatnam; in fact, Ptolemy has mentioned above the “mouth of the river Khabéros” which is undoubtedly the Kāvêri. But between this town and the Ganges not a single place mentioned by Ptolemy could be identified with some amount of certainty. Many authors have put forth hypotheses but without any great success. Colonel Yule thought that the river Maisôlus was no other than the Kṛishnâ, because not far from its mouth there is the modern town of Masulipatam; but this reason was not very convincing. In the theory of Colonel Yule the town that Ptolemy calls Koddura was identified with Gûdûru, near Masulipatam. This identification was regarded with the greatest scepticism, for they replied to Colonel Yule that :

(1) The word Koddura does not fully resemble the word Gûdûru.

(2) There is nothing to prove that the village of Gûdûru existed at the time of Ptolemy and has preserved the same name for 18 centuries.

It is no more the same thing to-day. In compiling the ancient history of the Deccan and in studying the Koṇḍamudi plates, we have made the following important discoveries : (1) That the modern town named Gûdûru by Colonel Yule was once called Kudûra (2) that Kudûra existed at the time of Ptolemy. So we can now think of identifynig the Koddura of Ptolemy with the Kudûra of Koṇḍamudi plates.

Our knowledge of ancient Deccan enables us to make another new identification, Between Gûdûru and the mouth of the

Krishnā, there is the town of Ghaṇṭasālā, where Mr. Alexandre Rea (South Indian Bouddhist Antiquities—Madras 1894, page 32) has discovered the remains of a Stūpa which date from the beginning of the Christian era ; so, Ghaṇṭasālā existed at the time of Ptolemy ; and exactly at the required spot, on the sea side, between Koddura and the mouth of the river, Ptolemy places the mart of Kontakossyla.

We have thus solved an important problem, we have been able to identify certain places named by Ptolemy in a part of the Deccan coast ; and the place whence ships departed for Indo-China is found near Koddura, a little more to the north on the coast, i. e. not far from the mouth of the Godāvāri.

We shall therefore conclude that the port of departure for vessels bound for Khryṣē, during the time of Ptolemy, was situated near the mouth of the Godāvāri and that it was from there that the civilisation of India started to go over to Burma, Java, Camhodia and Annam.

§ 3. The Śālaṅkāyanas.

This dynasty had Veṅgipura for its capital, and had a special cult for the god Chitrarathaswāmin. The remains of a temple dedicated to this deity are found at Pedda-vēgi near Ellore. As copper-plates connected with this dynasty and this country have been found in the environs of this town, I think we may admit the identity of Veṅgipura with Pedda-vēgi. The plates of king Vijaya-Dēvarman (Ep. Ind. Vol. IX., No. 7, page 56) are in Prākṛit but contain two sanskrit verses. This king is said to be the 'performer of horse sacrifices.'

Another set of plates found near lake Kolleru (Ind. Ant. Vol. V., 1876, No. XVIII, page 175) is in Sanskrit and is probably not so ancient. It mentions Chaṇḍavarman and his son Vijaya-Nandivarman. The Śālaṅkāyanas ruled at this epoch over the same country of Kuṇḍuhāra which formerly was the native land of the Brīhatphalāyanas.

And J. F. Fleet says (Ind. Ant. Vol. V., 1876, page 175): "In Sir W. Elliot's fac-similes I have another copper-plate inscription of Vijaya-Nandivarman and his Yuvamahāīāja whose name seems to be Vijaya-Tuṅgavarman or Vijaya Buddhavarman the language, even, is doubtful but seems to be prākṛit....." This name is probably Buddhavarman, for, in the margin there is the character "dha" "

It is probable that these kings : Dēvarman, Chaṇḍavarman, his son Nandivarman and perhaps also the problematical Buddhavarman, have reigned between 350 and 450 A. D. It appears in fact that these kings came after the invasion of Samudra-Gupta ; and it is again probable that their kingdom was conquered in the fifth century by the Vishṇukunḍins with the help of the Vākātakas.

§ 4. The Vishnukundins.

The Rāmāirtham (Ep. Ind. Vol. XI., page 134) and the Chikkulla plates (Ep. Ind. Vol. IV., page 193) give us genealogy No. I; and the Pulimūrū grant (Report on Epigraphy for 1913-14; G. O. No. 920, Public, 4th Aug. 1914, page 102) gives us genealogy No. II :

No I.	{	Mādhavavarman I.
		Vikramēndravarmān I.
		Indrabhattāarakavarman
		Vikramēndravarmān II.
No II.	{	Vikramahēndra
		Govindavarman
		Mādhavavarman (II).

I am of opinion that Vikramahēndra may be identified with Vikramēndravarmān II. In fact, I have remarked that in several documents the information regarding the grand-father or other ancestors of the reigning king has been sometimes altered. It is probable that the real name of the grandfather of Mādhava II was Vikramēndravarmān II.

It seems that the capital of the kingdom was Lenduūra which is probably the present village of Dendulūru, in the Ellōre taluq near the ancient city of Veṅgi.

The tutelary deity of the dynasty is the "Holy Lord of Śrī Parvata," Śrī Sailam in the Karnul District. This God was the favourite deity of Prabhāvatī, widow of Rudrasēna II. and mother of Pravarasēna II, the Vākāṭaka king. On the other hand, Mādhavavarman I., the first Vishnukundin king had married a Vākāṭaka princess and we have said already, that very probably, in the middle of the V century, the Vākāṭakas uprooted the ancient Śālaṅkāyana dynasty of Veṅgi and placed on the throne their relation Mādhavavarman I. This king, in fact, is reported to have performed numerous sacrifices, 11 of

them being horse sacrifices which are emblems of victory. Besides that, the eulogies of this king resemble those found in the Vākātaka copper-plates of Pravarasēna I.

The king Vikramēndravarmān I. had no other merit than that of birth. He was the ornament of two families, the Vishnukūṇḍins and the Vākātakas. His reign was probably short.

On the contrary, Indrabhaṭṭārakavarman had a long reign as the Rāmāfirtham plates are dated in the 37th year of his reign; besides, during this reign, there was a terrible attack made by a king, who probably reigned in Kalinga, who was also called "Indra" and who seems to have been the head of a coalition of kings. These plates tell us that Indrabhaṭṭārakavarman "encountered in hundred thousands of battles numerous four-tusked elephants (chaturdanta)"; we know that God Indra is mounted on the elephant of the East which has four tusks. That statement is wholly confirmed by copper plates written in a similar alphabet which have been found in the Gōdaveri District. They are those of Pṛithivīmūla (J. B. B. R. A. S., Vol. XVI., page 116). From lines 17-20, we learn an alliance was entered into by several chiefs to uproot by force Indrabhaṭṭāraka whose elephant Kumuda (the elephant of the S. W. quarter) was struck down by Indrādhirāja mounted on his own elephant Supratika (the elephant of N. E. quarter). So there were two Indras present: Indrādhirāja, king of the northeast, that is, of Kalinga along the coast of Orissa, and Indrabhaṭṭāraka, the Vishnukūṇḍin who reigned in the southwest, that is to say in Vēṅgī. Now, it seems that it was the king of the Vishnukūṇḍins that was the victor. In fact the same Rāmāfirtham plates commemorate the grant made by Indra of a village situated in the Pākī-rashṭra. This province is mentioned in the Timmapuram plates (Ep. Ind. Vol. IX., page 317) under the name of Pākī-vishaya. And we know that this same province of Pākī-vishaya contained the village of Cherupūra, which is nothing but Chipurupalli in the Vizagapatam District (Ind. Ant. Vol. XX., pages 15 and 16). Since the Vishnukūṇḍin Indra was the master of Vizagapatam District after his war with the king of Orissa, it is certain that he was the victor. We have said that there was a coalition of many kings against Indrabhaṭṭāraka. Among them perhaps was Harishēna the Vākātaka;

in fact, the Ajanta inscription says that Harishēna vanquished the king of the Āndhra country. This word shows the country between the Gōdāvari and the Kṛishṇā, that is to say, the kingdom of the Vishṇukundins.

The son of Indrabhaṭṭāraka was Vikramēndravarman II. It is certain that this king reigned on the banks of the Kṛishṇā as the Chikkula plates mention the village of Rēgonṇam to the S. E. of Rāvīrēva on the bank of the Kṛishṇabennā; and Rāvīrēva has been identified by Mr. Sewell with Raveralah 80°10'E and 16°50'N):

The son of Vikramēndravarman II. (Vikramahēndra) was Gōvindavarman and his grandson Mādhavavarman II (Janāśrāya). The last of them "crossed the river Gōdāvari with the desire to conquer the eastern region". This event probably took place shortly before the invasion of Pulakēśin II. who put an end to the dynasty of Vishṇukundins and annexed the kingdom of Vēngi.

In my work "The Pallavas" (chapter III., page 34), I have attributed the caves of Unḍavalli, Sittanagaram, Bezwāda, Mogalrājapuram to the Vishṇukundins. I shall not speak of it once again.

The seal of the Chikkula plates (Ep. Ind. Vol IV., plate facing the page 244) resembles that of the Rāmatīrttham plates: an advancing lion with its fore-paw raised, mouth wide open and the tail swung over the back so as to end in a loop (G. O. No. 538; Rep. on Epi. 28th July 1909). The lion was then the crest of the Vishṇukundins. It is to be remarked that the Kadambas have the same crest which proves the family relationship that existed between the Kadambas and the Vishṇukundins. We find the image of a vase sculptured on the pillāis at Unḍavalli and Mogalrājapuram, and the image of a lion at Unḍavalli. Coins bearing the image of a lion on the obverse and the image of a vase on the reverse have also been found. (see for instance, in Mr. Vincent A. Smith's, "Early History of India," the plate concerning the Indian coins in the British Museum: coin No. 16, from Elliot, "Coins of Southern India" Pl., II, 49). These coins have been attributed to the Pallavas. In 1917, in my work "The Pallavas" (Chapter III, page 34), I have attributed these coins to the Vishṇukundins.

§ 5. The Kings of Kalinga.

We have six documents that give us information about the kings of Kalinga. We have said that, about A. D. 340, Samudra-Gupta met on the coast of Orissa with Maṇḍarāja, king of Kotāla, Swāmidaṭṭa of Koṭṭūra, Damana of Eraṇḍapali and Mahēndra of Piṣṭāpura. The last of them had probably the title of king of Kalinga: we shall see, in fact, that Śaktivarman (Ragolu plates) who also reigned at Piṣṭāpura had this title. The six documents we have mentioned being all in Sanskrit are probably posterior to the year 400 A. D. On the other hand the coast of Orissa was conquered by Pulakēśin II (Aihole inscription) about 609 A. D. and was probably shared between the Eastern Chālukyas in the south and the Eastern Gaṅgas in the north. The dates of the 6 documents in question are therefore between 400 and 600 A. D.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to establish a chronology of the kings of Kalinga whose names we know. Therefore we shall now proceed to enumerate those documents without any ascertained chronological order.

a) The Ragolu plates (Ep. Ind. Vol XII, page 2) mention Vāsishṭhīputra Śaktivarman, king of Kalinga who reigned at Piṣṭāpura. It is said that this sovereign "adorns the Māga-dha family," which goes to show that this prince was related to the Guptas and reigned towards the middle of the V century when the Guptas and the Vākātakas dominated the Deccan.

b) The Gōḍāvari copper plates (J. B. B. R. A. S. Vol XVI, page 116) had been studied when we gave the history of Indrabhaṭṭāraka of the Viṣṇukunḍin dynasty: the king Prithivīmula who was the donor of the Gōḍāvari plates was the son of Śri-Prabhākara and reigned in the city of Kāṇḍāḷi. He was the vassal of another more powerful king named Indra who was the son of Mitavarman, reigned at Maṇḍalkuḍi

and had for his war-elephant Supratika (the elephant of the N. E. quarter). The document says that this king was the victor in the struggle against the king Indrabhattāraka. But we have said that this is not probable and that, on the contrary, the Vishṇukunḍin king seems to have annexed the districts of Gôdāvari and Vizagapatam and driven away the kings of Kalinga to the north. In fact, the capital of the kings of Kalinga which was Pishtāpuram at the times of Mahendra and Vāsisthīputra Śaktivarman seems to have been transferred further north to Sārāpalli and Simhapura after the Vishṇukunḍins captured Pishtāpuram. This event probably took place in the first quarter of the VI Century.

c) The Chikakole plates (Ind. Ant. Vol. XIII., page 48) of Nandaprabhañjanavarman issued from Sārāpalli and

d) the Kōmarti plates (Ep. Ind. Vol. IV., page 143) of Chandavarman issued from Simhapuram, have many points of resemblance: the phraseology of both these documents is almost the same; the seals bear the word "Pitribhaktah"; Nandaprabhañjana and Chandavarman are both of them called kings of Kalinga; and lastly, Simhapura, the capital of Chandavarman may be identified with Siṅgupuram, a village near Chikakole where the plates of Nandaprabhañjana were discovered.

e) The Brihatprôsthā grant of Umavarman, lord of Kalinga, issued from Simhapura (Ep. Ind., Vol. XII., page 4) surely belongs to the same group as the plates of Chikakole and Kōmarti. It is impossible to say in what chronological order, Umavarman, Nandaprabhañjana and Chandavarman reigned. Their epoch is also uncertain; they might possibly have reigned between 525 and 609 A. D.

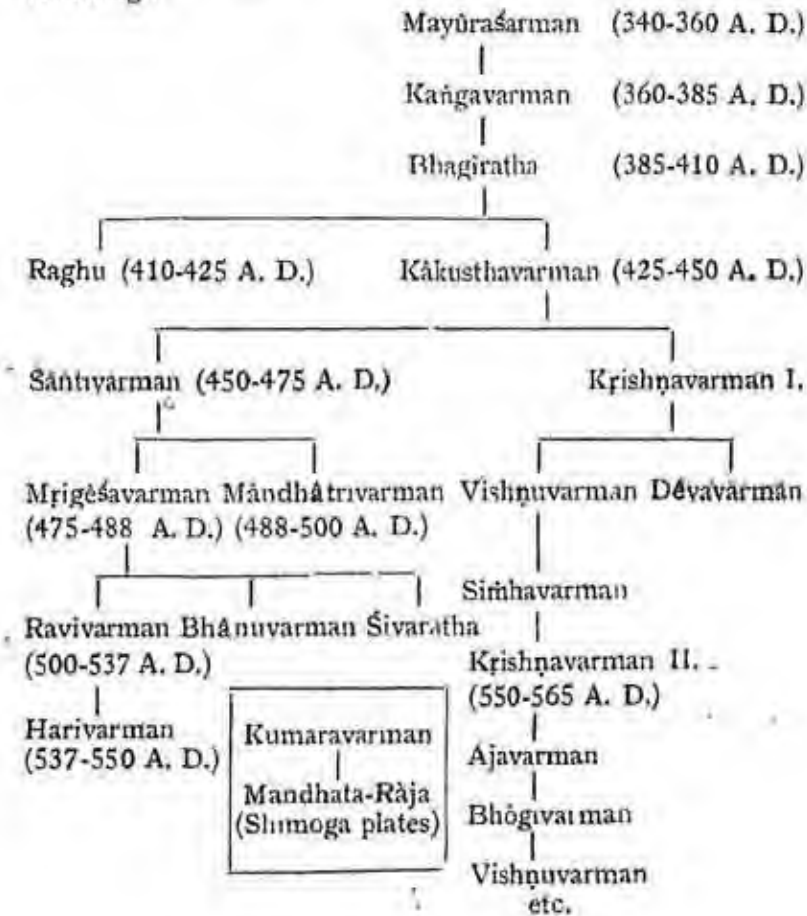
f) Lastly, we have to mention the Sarabhavaram plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. XIII., page 104) for, this village where they were discovered is in the Gôdāvari district and it is probably here that the Lord of Chikūra, whose name is not mentioned and who perhaps lived in the VI century, reigned. He was probably not a "king of Kalinga" but only a simple feudatory.

CHAPTER VII.

THE DYNASTIES OF THE KANARESE DISTRICTS.

§ 1. The Kadambas.

The genealogy of the Kadambas may probably be the following :



A part of this genealogy has been published by Professor Kielhorn (Ep. Ind., Vol. VIII., page 30) and admitted by Mr. Rice in his work "Mysore and Coorg from inscriptions" ["jyēshṭha-pitṛi," in the Birūr plates, means a father's elder brother].

The genealogy given above differs from those published by Messrs. Kielhorn and Rice because I have taken into account the discovery of the Shimoga plates in 1911 and those of Tagare in 1918. The Tagare plates (Annual Report, Mysore Archaeological Department, for 1918, page 40, No. 71) give us the following genealogy:

Kṛishṇavarman
|
Ajavarman
|
Bhōgivarman
|
Vishṇuvarman

Relying on the form of the letters, I thought that it was not possible to admit that this Kṛishṇavarman was Kṛishṇavarman I; but that he was, on the contrary, very probably Kṛishṇavarman II.

The Shimoga plates (Annual Report, Mysore Archaeological Department, for 1911, page 31), say that the king Mādhāta-Rāja, son of Kumārarvarman reigned at Uchchangi (Uchchangidurga=Uchchaśringī). This town belonged to Śivaratha in the 4th year of the reign of Harivarman (Halsi plates, Ind. Ant., Vol., page 30); that is why we can suppose that Kumārarvarman was the son of Śivaratha or Harivarman; the Shimoga plates do not give us any information about his filiation.

The chronology of the Kadambas has not yet been fixed on a sure basis. It is only a complete study not only of this dynasty but also of all the other dynasties of the Deccan that will enable us to arrive at a satisfactory result. In the genealogical table, I have just given, I have put within brackets, beside the name of each king, the approximate date of his reign, according to the chronology I have adopted. I shall now try to justify this chronology.

(1) We have said, when speaking of the copper plates of the Pallava dynasty, that palæography was generally a bad auxiliary to the chronology of dynasties; very often, two documents dated in the same reign differ much from each other. However there is a special case to which I must draw the reader's attention. We know that in the middle of the V century the Gupta-Vākātakas were very powerful in the Deccan. I call Gupta-Vākātakas those kings of the Vākātaka dynasty who were the sons, grandsons or great-grandsons of queen Prabhāvatī, daughter of Dēvagupta (Chandra-Gupta II). We know that this queen was the regent of the kingdom during the minority of her son; and the plates of Professor Pātak (Ind. Ant., 1912, page 215), which are dated in the time of this princess, bear on the seal not the genealogy of the Vākātakas but of the Guptas. The descendants of this queen considered themselves to be as much Guptas as Vākātakas. They adopted a very peculiar alphabet which spread as a queer fashion in the V century, in the empire of the Guptas, at the time of Chandra-Gupta II (Bühler "Ind. paleography" Ind. Ant. Vol XXXIII, page 64). This has been styled the "box-headed" alphabet. I distinguish two sorts of "box" placed at the head of the letters :

The "true box" ; it is thus described by J. F. Fleet : "formed by sinking four short strokes in the shape of a square and leaving a block of stone or copper in the centre of them" (Gupta Inscriptions, page 19).

The "false box" is more simple: the sculptor or engraver has simply removed a sufficiently large square surface at the head of each letter.

As an example of the "true box" we may take the Balaghat plates (Ep. Ind. Vol. IX., page 268) of Prithivishēna II and all the plates of Pravarasēna II (Channak, Siwani and Dudia).

When examining the Uruvupalli plates (see the plate in Ind. Ant. Vol. V, page 51) which are dated from Palakkada in the 11th year of the reign of the Pallava king Simhavarman and which have been engraved by order of Yuvamahārāja Vishnugōpa, I made the important remark, which no one has done up to the present, that the alphabet of this documents was "box headed" ; nay more, it is not the "false box"

but the "true box" so much so that these plates can be shown as an excellent specimen of the "true box". *Simhavarman* and *Vishnugōpa* have reigned between 475 and 500 A. D. and the *Uruvupalli* plates are probably dated 486 A. D. The plates of *Māṅgaḷūr* and *Pikira* of the son of *Vishnugōpa* are not box-headed; we may therefore say that from 500 A. D., the box method disappeared. The same phenomenon is to be seen in the *Kadamba* documents: the plates of *Mṛigēśa* and *Māndhātṛi* are box-headed, but those of *Ravivarman* are not. There is room to think that *Mṛigēśa* and *Māndhātṛi* reigned from 475 to 500 A. D. and were contemporaries of *Simhavarman* and *Vishnugōpa*; and that *Ravivarman* reigned after 500 A. D. when the box method has disappeared from the Deccan.

(2) We know that about 550 A. D., *Pulakēśin I* seized *Vātāpi* and founded the *Chalukya* kingdom: but if we look at the map, we see that the geographical position of *Bādāmi* (*Vātāpi*) allows us to affirm that *Palāśikā* (*Halsi*) could not belong to the *Kadambas* when the *Chalukyas* were in *Bādāmi*. It may therefore be asserted that all the plates found at *Halsi* and dated from *Palāśikā* (*Ind. Ant.*, Vol. VI, pages 23, 25, 28, 29, 31,) are anterior to 550 A. D. We may therefore say that *Harivarman* who, in the 5th year of his reign (*Ind. Ant.*, Vol. VI, page 31) held *Palāśikā*, reigned there before the middle of the VI century. It has to be noted that we do not know of any *Kadamba* document dated from *Palāśikā* which is posterior to the one we have just mentioned; it is therefore probable that *Harivarman* was almost the contemporary of *Pulakēśin I* and was vanquished by him. The *Sangoli* plates (*Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XIV, page 165) mention an astronomical phenomenon and Mr. K. N. Dikshit of Poona has observed that during the VI century this phenomenon could have occurred only thrice: in 507, in 526 and in 545. The *Sangoli* plates being dated in the 8th year of *Harivarman's* reign, this king must have come to the throne only in 526-8=518 A. D. or in 545-8=537 A. D., if we believe that this event happened in the VI century. The latter date agrees perfectly well with the chronology we have adopted; we shall therefore admit that *Harivarman* ascended the throne in 537 A. D.

Let us now proceed to sum up the history of this dynasty.

The Tālgūṇḍa inscription (Ep. Ind., Vol VIII, page 30) gives a version, probably historical, of the origin of the Kadambas. There was a brahman belonging to the Mānavya gōtra named Mayūraśarman who was a native of Sthānakundur (Tālgūṇḍa) and belonged to a family called Kadamba since a kadamba tree sheltered their house. He came to the capital of the Pallava empire to study the Vēdas and there had a quarrel with a horseman. Hearing it said that the brahman caste was inferior to that of the Kshatriyas, he got angry, put himself at the head of a band of adventurers and attacked the Pallavas in the forests of Sri Parvata. With the help of Bṛihad-Bāna and other kings, he succeeded in founding the kingdom of which Banavāsī (Vaijayanti) was the capital. Mr. K. G. Sankara Iyer of Trivandram in his excellent article on "The age of Kālidāsa" published in the "Quarterly Journal of the Mythic Society," (Bangalore, Vol. VIII., July 1918) says: "It is probable that Māyuraśarman took advantage of the confusion caused by Samudragupta's southern expedition to set himself up as an independent ruler". This hypothesis accords with the chronology we have adopted.

Dr. A. Venkatasubbiah, the learned officer of the "Mysore Archæological Department", has written an article on "The Kadamba prākṛit inscription of Malavalli" Ind, Ant., Vol. XLVI, page 154), in which we find the exact tenor of that document. It is a Kadamba inscription, but the name of the king is not mentioned. However, as it is in prākṛit we may suppose that he was the most ancient king of the dynasty and that the document is dated in the reign of Mayuraśarman, that is, the middle of the IV century.

The 8th verse of the Ajaṇṭā inscription (cave No. XVI, Arch. Surv. W. Ind., Vol IV, pages 53 and 124) says that the Vākāṭaka king Prithivishēṇa I. vanquished the king of Kuṇṭala, i. e. the Kadamba king. It is certain that Prithivishēṇa I. reigned for a long time: tradition says that he reigned for about a hundred years and Mr. Vincent A. Smith is of opinion that it means "from about forty to sixty years". We know that his son Rudraśēṇa II. married the daughter of Chandra-Gupta II, about 395 A. D. We may therefore be almost sure that Prithivishēṇa I. reigned between 350 and 390 A. D. According to our chronology he must have been the contemporary of the Kadamba

king Kaṅgavarman (360-385 A. D.) and it is probable that this king of Kuṇṭala is the one whose defeat is mentioned in the Ajaṇṭā inscription; and the Tāḷguṇḍa inscription seems to confirm this supposition, as it says that Kaṅgavarman accomplished "lofty exploits in terrible wars".

We have not got any information about Bhagiratha.

Raghu "subdued enemies by his valour". It is probably in his reign that his brother Kākustha bore the title of Yuvamahārāja and ruled over Palāśikā (Halsi in Belgaum) in the year 80 of an unknown era which probably began with the founding of the dynasty by Mayūrasarman. In that case, the Halsi plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. VI, page 23) would be dated about the year 420 A. D. and Kākustha would have come to the throne in 425 and reigned till 450 A. D.

The Balaghat plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. IX., page 268) say that Narēndrasēna was the grandson of Prabhāvatī-Guptā and that he married the daughter of the king of Kuṇṭala named Ajjhita-bhṭṭarikā. When did this marriage take place? We have admitted with Mr. Vincent A. Smith (J. R. A. S., April 1914, page 326) that the marriage of Rudrasēna II with the daughter of Chandra-Gupta II, the queen Prabhāvatī-Gupta, took place about 395 A. D.; we may suppose that the marriage of their grandson took place 50 years later. So the marriage of the prince Gupta-Vākāṭaka with the daughter of the king of Kuṇṭala must be placed about 445 A. D. We have said above that it is certain that the Kuṇṭala kingdom was no other than the kingdom of the Kadambas (see Ep. Ind., Vol. XIII, page 299, verses 58—62). We may therefore put the question: who was the Kadamba king that reigned in 445 and gave his daughter in marriage to the Gupta-Vākāṭaka king? In our chronology Kākusthavarman is shown to have reigned from 425 to 450 and it is quite possible that in 445 he had a daughter of marriageable age; and the celebrated inscription of Tāḷguṇḍa which contains the eulogy of Kākusthavarman and is written in the "box-headed" alphabet says that Kākusthavarman gave his daughters in marriage to the Guptas and other kings.

The plates of Mṛigēśa and Māndhātṛi, "the sons of Śāntivarman, are also written in the same alphabet.

Two sets of copper plates discovered at Dēvagiri (Ind. Ant., Vol. VII, page 35 and page 37) are dated in the 3rd

and 4th years of the reign of Mrigēśa; the Halsi plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. VI, p. 24) and the Hire-Sakuna plates (Ep. Carn., VII, page 12), are dated in the 8th year of the same reign. The Hitnābhāgīlī (Ep. Carn., IV, p. 136) and Tāḷganda records are not dated. The last document (Mysore Archaeological Report, for 1910-11, page 35, and Plate IV, 2) mentions the wife of Mrigēśa, who was born in the Kaikeya family, and was called Prābhāvatī. In the first 8 years of his reign, about 480 A. D. Mrigēśa uprooted the Gaṅgas, and was a very fire of destruction of the Pallavas (Halsi plates, Ind. Ant., VI, p. 24). Mrigēśa reigned at Vaijayanṭī. It is probable that he did not reign long, since the documents we have got do not go beyond the 8th year of his reign.

It is probable that Mrigēśa was succeeded by his younger brother Māndhātṛivarman who also reigned at Vaijayanṭī: the Kūdgere plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. VI, p. 14) are dated in the 2nd year of his reign. His private secretary Dāmōdaradatta was probably the Dāmōdara of Koppūr (Ind. Ant., Vol. XXI, p. 93).

In the absence of more precise information, we may admit that Mrigēśa reigned from 475 to 490 A. D. and Māndhātṛi from 490 to 500 A. D.

When Śantivarman, Mrigēśa and Māndhātṛi were reigning at Vaijayanṭī, the northern provinces (Belgaum, Kaladgee and Darwar), which had Palāśikā (Halsi) and Tripurvata (probably Dēvagēri) for their capitals, were governed by princes belonging to the younger branch of the Kadamba family. Kṛishṇavarman I., son of Kākustha and elder brother of Santivarman, reigned at Tripurvata (probably Dēvagēri, in the Karajgi taluk of Dhārwad District). He had the prince Dēvavarman as yuvamahārāja (Dēvagēri plates, Ind. Ant., Vol. VIII, p. 33). Almost at the same time, Viṣṇuvarman, the elder (Birur plates) son of Kṛishṇavarman I, made a grant in the Sindhulhaya-rashtra (Bijapur District) with the permission of his cousin Santivarman (Birur plates; Ep. Carn., Vol. VI, p. 91; Kadur No. 162) Viṣṇuvarman was the son of a Kaikeya princess who had married Kṛishṇavarman I. Who were the Kaikeyas? Nothing is known about them. The kingdom of Palāśikā (Halsi), which was governed by Viṣṇuvarman, belonged to the Kadambas of Vaijayanṭī; in fact, when Mrigēśa

was reigning at Vaijyanti (Ind. Ant., vol. VI, page 24), he gave orders for the construction of a temple at Palāśikā.

It is probable that on the death of Māndhatri, the crown of the Kadambas came, as a matter of right, to Ravivarman the son of Māndhatri; this prince being young, his cousin Vishṇuvarman tried to seize upon the throne with the help of the Pallavas; but Ravi killed his adversary. In fact, a set of Halsi plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. VI, page 32) say that Rāvivarman "acquired the regal power by the strength and prowess of his own arm", and another set of Halsi plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. VI, page 29) also add that Rāvivarman "having slain Śrī-Vishṇuvarman and other kings, and having uprooted Chaṇḍadanda, the lord of Kāñchi has established himself at Palāśikā". The Nilambur plates (Ep. Ind., Vol. VIII., page 146) are dated in the 5th year of Ravivarman's reign; and there are three sets of plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. VI, page 25, 28 and 29) that are dated in the same reign from Palāśikā. The Ajjibad-Sirsi plates (Progress Report, Arch. Surv. West. Ind., for 1917-1918, page 35) are dated in the 35th year of his reign which corresponds probably to circ. 535 A. D. and it is likely, that, having come to the throne about 500 A. D. when sufficiently young, he reigned for about 40 years and died in 537 A. D. The inscription on the stone at Kavaḍi (Sorab 523, Shimoga; (Ep. Carn., Vol. VIII, page 167) mentions the death of Ravi and of his wife who probably became a sati.

His son Harivarman succeeded him at Vaijyanti (Sangoli plates; Ep. Ind., Vol. XIV., page 165; 8th year of the reign) and at Palāśikā (Halsi plates, Ind. Ant., Vol. VI., page 31; 5th year of his reign). We have said that he ascended the throne in 537 A. D.

About the year 550 A. D., Pulakēśin I. of the Chalukya family installed himself at Vātāpi (Bādāmi). This town being situated exactly in the middle of the northern provinces of the Kadamba kingdom, it is almost certain that Harivarman lost, about 550 A. D., all the country that had for its capitals Palāśikā (Halsi) and Triparvata.

We have seen that Ravivarman killed Vishṇuvarman, his cousin and settled at Palāśikā; Śimhavarman, the son of Visṇuvarman, probably remained in an inferior position during the reign of Ravivarman; but the son of Śimhavarman who

was called Kṛishṇavarman II. ascended the throne of Vaijayanti. The Bennur plates (Ep. Carn., Vol. V., page 594 ; Belur 245) speak of a military expedition and the Bennahalli plates (Ep. Carn., Vol. V, Be. 121 ; and Ep. Ind., Vol. VI., page 18) say that Kṛishṇavarman II. "has gained the fortune of royalty by his heroism". The kingdom of Kṛishṇavarman II. extended between the Chalukya kingdom in the north and that of the Gaṅgas in the south. Mādhava II. of the Gaṅga dynasty married the sister of Kṛishṇavarman II. Probably, it was Kṛishṇavarman II. that was defeated by the Chaluka Kirtivarman I. shortly before 570 A. D. and whose country was ruined by the Pallavas (Aṇaṇi insc., Ep. Carn., Vol. XI, Dg, No. 161).

For a long time it was believed that the dynasty was completely destroyed. However, the discovery of the Tagare plates (Mysore Arch. Report for 1918, page 40 and plate XI) seems to prove that the son of Kṛishṇavarman II. who was called Ajavarman, did not reign, but that Bhōgivarman, the son of Ajavarman, was the "acquirer of an extensive kingdom by the strength of his own arm". It is probable that this kingdom did not last long, for, it appears that this country was occupied, shortly after, by the Gaṅgas (Tagare plates of Polavira, Mysore Arch. Report for 1918, page 41). Viṣṇuvarman son of Bhōgivarman probably lived in the beginning of the VII century.

The Chāḷukya king Puḷakeśin II besieged Banavāsi (Aihole insc.) and, in the Kadamba country there are inscriptions of Puḷakeśin II (Sh. 10), Vikramāditya (Sa. 79), Vinayāditya (Su. 154) and Vijayāditya (Sk. 278).

At the end of the VIII century, the Pallava king Dantivarman married Aggaṇanimmaṇi, "the daughter of the celebrated king, a crest jewel of the Kadamba family" (Vēlūrpālaiyam plates, vers 18 ; S. I, I., Vol. II., Part V., page 511).

§ 2. The Gaṅgas.

Up to the moment of writing this, the genealogy of this dynasty has remained unsettled for the following reasons : The first documents that were discovered were no doubt spurious. They gave the following genealogy :

Koṅgaṇivarman,
|
Mādhava (I),
|
Harivarman,
|
Kishkaṅgôpa,
|
Mādhava (II),
|
Avinīta,
etc.

In 1913, were discovered the Penukoṇḍa plates which give the following genealogy :

Koṅgaṇivarman,
|
Mādhava,
|
Āyyavarman,
|
Madhava.

This document was certainly a genuine one ; it was admitted that the genealogy given in the spurious records is erroneous and that the only reliable one is what is given in the Penukoṇḍa plates. It has therefore been admitted that the following is the correct genealogy :

Koṅgaṇivarman,
|
Mādhava¹ I,
|
Āyyavarman,
|
Mādhava II.,
|
Avinīta,
etc.

Here the donor of the Penukonḍa plates is mentioned as the father of Avinīta. I strongly protest against these suppositions. I affirm that the genealogy given in the spurious records is quite correct, but that, till now, no one has understood the true reason for the disagreement that exists between the Penukonḍa plates and the other documents. F. Fleet says (J. R. A. S., 1915, page 472): "It must be obvious that two such different statements cannot both be true". There lies the mistake: I am of opinion that both the genealogies are correct; but they are of two different dynasties.

First of all, I have to declare most emphatically that the genealogy given in the spurious records is quite correct. In the Mysore Archaeological Report for 1916, Mr. R. Narasimhachar has published two sets of copper plates: the Sringeri plates of Avinīta and the Uttanur plates of Durvinīta; and, as for the Gummaredḍipura plates of the same king published in 1912 § 69, "there are no indications, that would lead one to suspect the genuineness" of those records. The dynasty referred to in these documents is that of the "Gaṅgas of Talakāḍ".

I now proceed to prove the existence of a second dynasty which I shall call the dynasty of the "Gaṅgas of Paruvi". We possess two documents of this dynasty which has remained unknown till now:

1) The Penukonḍa plates issued by the king Mādhava when making a grant of land situated near the tank of Paruvi in Paraviyishaya (J. R. A. S., 1915, page 480 and "Report on Epigraphy" for 1913-1914, Madras, page 83-84);

2) The Bendigānhalli plates of Kṛṣṇavarman, son of Mādhava, which mentions the grant of Kuraura in Paruvishaya (Mysore Archaeol. Annual Report for 1914-1915, plate XVIII). Paruvi is identical with Parigi seven miles north of Hindupur in the Anantapur district.

The capital of this dynasty was perhaps Kavaipāṭa from which place are dated the plates of Kṛṣṇavarman.

The chronology of the Gaṅgas has till now remained so very uncertain that the authors who have treated the subject sometimes differ by several centuries.

However, all of them are almost agreed on the one point, that Mādhava II, the father of Avinīta, married the sister of Kṛṣṇavarman I, the son of Kākusthavarman of the Kadamba

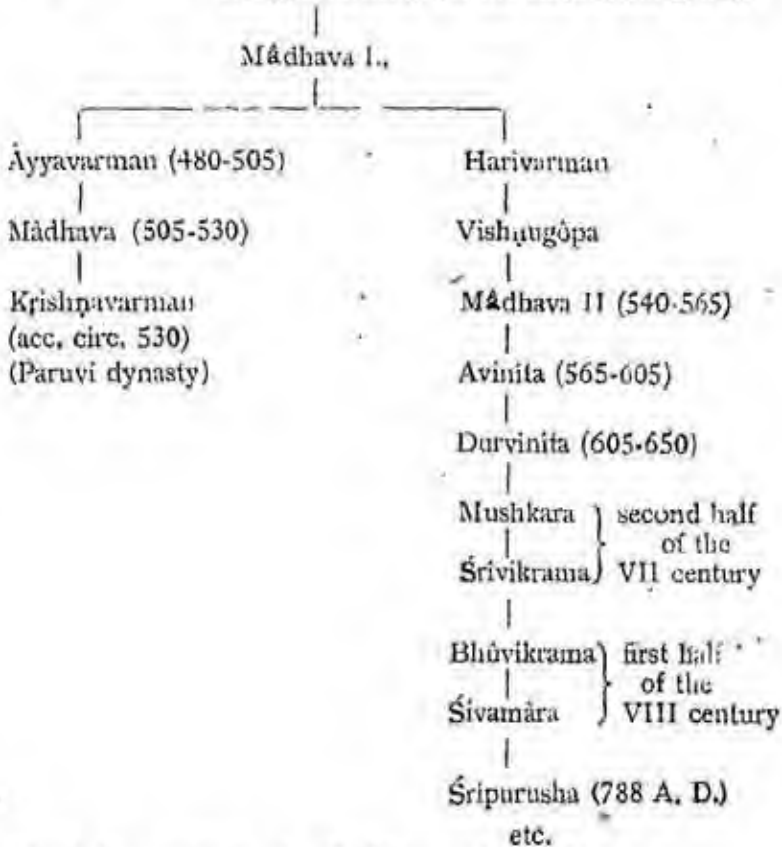
dynasty : but it is quite certain it was not the case. The documents say that Mādhava II. married the sister of the Kadamba Kṛishṇavarman, but this king was, I am sure, the second of that name and not the first. I declare that Mādhava II. married the sister of Kṛishṇavarman II.

The first king, of whose date we are sure, reigned in the VIII century : in 1918, Mr. R. Narasimhachari discovered at Halkūr (Sira taluk) an inscription on a stone belonging to the reign of Śrīpurusha and dated Ś. 710 or 788 A. D. This king was the son of Śivamāra (Vallimalai insc., No. 91 of 1889), and grandson (Śūḍi plates, Ep. Ind., Vol. VIII, p. 181), of Bhūvikrama. Since Śrīpurusha reigned in 788 A. D. we may suppose that his grand father Bhūvikrama ascended the throne in the first quarter of the VIII century (700-725 A. D.). The father of Bhūvikrama named Śrīvikrama must have reigned therefore in the 4th quarter of the VII century (675-700 A. D.) and his grandfather Mushkara in the 3rd quarter of the same century (650-675 A. D.). We know that Durvinita the father of Mushkara reigned for a long time : the Gummaredipura plates (Report, Archæol. Depart. Mysore, for 1912 ; paras 65-69) are, in fact, dated in the 40th year of his reign, and, as it is probable that he lived a few years more, we may give him a reign of 45 years which will extend from 605 to 650 A. D. His father Avinita probably reigned for an equally long period, for, the Śringēri plates, which are dated in the second year of his reign, say that he obtained the "sovereignty while still on the lap of his divine mother" and the grant of Ep. Carn., 9, Dodda-Ballāpūr, 68, is dated in the 29th year of his reign. We may therefore believe that he reigned for a further period of 11 years after making the latter grant and that his reign lasted about 40 years. Avinita would therefore have reigned from 565 to 605 A. D. According to these calculations, Mādhava II., the father of Avinita, would have reigned from 540 to 565 A. D. and this is exactly the epoch we have assigned to the Kadamba Kṛishṇavarman II. If we now bear in mind that the Gaṅga Mādhava II. and the Kadamba Kṛishṇavarman II. both reigned over Mysore, the one in the North and the other in the South, and that, in consequence, they were neighbours, it would seem to be quite natural that Mādhava II. should marry the sister of Kṛishṇavarman II. It is

clear that it is absolutely impossible that Mādhava II, who lived in the middle of the VI century, should have married the sister of Kṛṣṇavarman I, who lived in the middle of the V century. We shall therefore conclude by saying : "Mādhava II, the father of Avinīta, married the sister of the Kadamba Kṛṣṇavarman II. and reigned from 540 to 565 A. D."

This chronology is in perfect accord with all the documents. We shall presently see that Āyavarman was placed on the throne about 480 A. D., by Śiṃhavarman, the Pallava king that reigned from 475 to 500 A. D., and that the son of Āyavarman was crowned by the Pallava Skandavarman (500-525 A. D.).

We get therefore the following genealogy and chronology :
Koṅganivarman, (of the Kaṇvāyana gōtra),



We shall now try to give the history of these kings.

We have said that, about 480 A. D., the Kadamba Mṛigeśa fought with the Gaṅgas and was "a very fire of destruction of the Pallavas" (Halsi plates, Ind. Ant., Vol. VI., page 25). This information is very important as it proves that about 480 A. D. the Pallavas aided the Gaṅgas in their fight with the Kadambas. The Pallava king at this epoch was probably Śiṃhavarman who reigned at Kāñchi and to whom we have assigned the date 475 to 500 A. D.; and this fact is confirmed by the Penugōṇḍa plates that say that the Gaṅga king Āyyavarman "was duly installed on the throne by Śiṃhavarman Mahārāja, the lord of the prosperous Pallava family (Rep. on Ep. for 1913-14; G. O., No. 920, 4th Aug. 1914). The son of Āyyavarman who was called Mādhava alias Śiṃhavarman was "installed on the throne by the illustrious Pallava (king) Skandavarman". We have said that Skandavarman of Kāñchi, son of Śiṃhavarman reigned from 500 to 525 A. D. It is probable that this Pallava king had also to contend with the Kadambas for strengthening the sovereignty of the Gaṅga king for, the Halsi plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. VI., p. 29) say that Rāvivarman struggled against "Chañḍadanda, the lord of Kāñchi". Since we do not know of any Pallava king of that name, we may suppose that the name "Chandanda" was a "biruda" of Skandavarman who reigned at this epoch (500-525 A. D.)

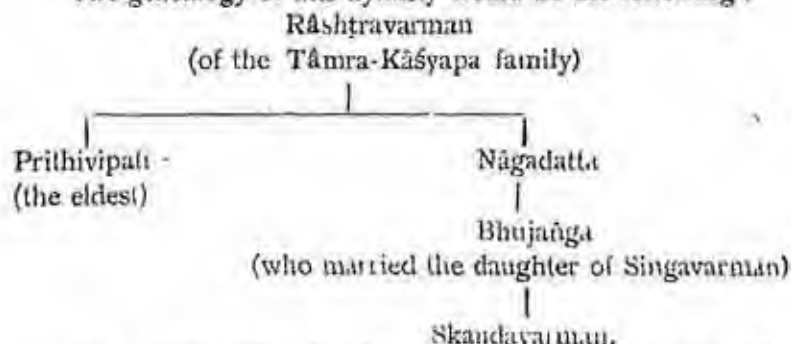
Mādhava alias Śiṃhavarman, who made the grant commemorated by the Penugōṇḍa plates, reigned over Paruvivishaya and must be identified with the Mādhava of the Bendigānhalli plates (Mysore Archæ. Report for 1914-15, plate XIII) whose son Vijaya-Kṛishṇavarman reigned over Paruvishaya. This king Kṛishṇavarman must have reigned in the middle of the VI century, for, the alphabet of the Bendigānhalli plates is almost identical with that of the Bannahalli (Ep. Ind., Vol. VI, p. 18) and Chikkulla (Ep. Ind., Vol. IV., p. 196) plates. Kṛishṇavarman is the last known king of the Paruvi dynasty.

The king Mādhava II, who belonged to the dynasty of the Gaṅgas of Talakāḍ, "bought the sovereignty with the strength of his own arm", and married the younger sister of the Kadamba Kṛishṇavarman (II), who, in the middle of the VI century, reigned over a large part of Mysore.

His son Avinīta (565-605 A. D.) married the daughter of Skandavarman king of Punnāṣa.

We must here say a few words about the kings of Punnād. The capital of this province was Kittipura or Kittur (Hg. 56, Ep. Carn., Vol. IV) on the river Kabbani, to the west of Talakād. In 1917, Mr. R. Narasimhachar discovered (Mysore Archæol. Report for 1917, page 40, No. 87) the Māmballi plates that give us reliable information about this dynasty. The spurious plates of Kōmatalingam (Ind. Ant., Vol. XVIII; page 362) give further details which are very probably historical.

The genealogy of this dynasty would be the following :



It is probable that this Skandavarman gave his daughter in marriage to the Gaṅga Avinita (565-605 A. D.), king of Talakād. The issue of this marriage was Durvinita who annexed Punnād to the kingdom of the Gaṅgas.

Durvinita (605 to 650 A. D.) is known "as having his broad chest embraced, of her own accord, by the goddess of sovereignty, though she was intended by his father for another son", as the victor in the battles of Andari, Ālattūr, Polulāre, Pernagara (in Salem district); as the lord of Paṇṇāda and Punnāda; as the author of three works, namely a Śabdāvalāra, a saṅskṛit version of the Vaḍḍakatha or Bṛīhalkatha, and a commentary on the 15th sarga of the Kirātārjunīya (Mysore Archæol. Report, for 1916, page 45).

SYNCHRONIZATION OF THE DYNASTIES OF THE DECCAN.

Circ.A.D.	Pallavas	Velatakas	Vishnukundins	Kadambas	Gangas
425-450	Viravarman	Pravarasēna II.		Kakustha	Konkanivarman
450-475	Skandavarman	A son	Mādhava I.	Santivarman	Mādhava I.
475-500	Simhavarman Y.M. Vishnugōpa	Narēndrasēna	Vikramādendra I.	Krishnavarman I.	Ayyavarman
500-525	Skandavarman Simhavarman	Prithivishēna II.	Indrabhatāraka	Vishnavarman	Harivarman
525-550	Nandivarman	Harishēna	Vikramādendra II.	Ravivarman	Mādhava
				Simhavarman	Vishnugōpa
				Krishnavarman II.	Krishnavarman Mādhava II.

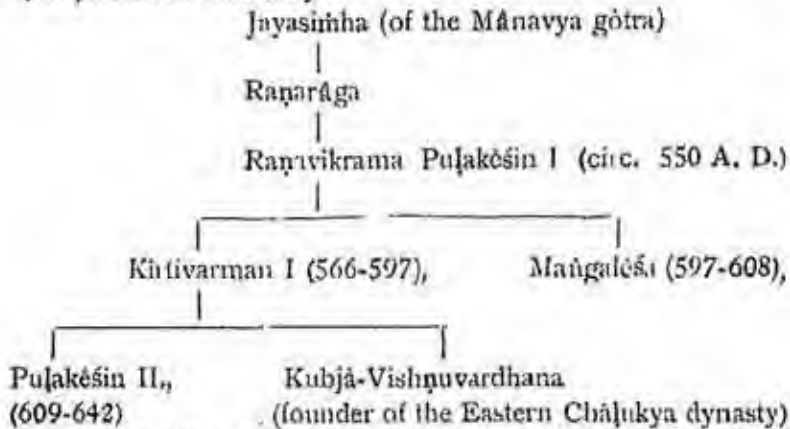
Pravarasēna II being the grandson of Chandra-Gupta II (375-413) was certainly living in the second quarter of the V century. The box-headed alphabets of the Kadamba kings Mrigēsa and Mādhatri are contemporaneous with the box-headed alphabet of the Balaghat plates of Prithivishēna II who was the son of a Kadamba (Kuntala) princess.

The Uruvupalli plates of Yuvamahārāja Vishnugōpa are box-headed as the plates of the Kadamba kings Mrigēsa and Mādhatri. The alphabets of the Bendigēhalli (Mysore Arch. Rep. for 1914-15, plate XVIII) Chikēnlla (Ep. Ind. Vol. IV, p. 196) and Bannahalli (Ep. Ind. Vol. VI, p. 18) plates are so similar that there is no room for doubting that the Ganga Krishnavarman, the Vishnukundin Vikramēndravarmān II and the Kadamba Krishnavarman II were contemporaneous; the sister of this latter king married the Ganga Mādhava II.

It is very probable that the Kadamba Harivarman ascended the throne in 557 A. D. and so, was contemporaneous with the Pallava king Vishnugōpa (525-550), grand father of Simhaviśnu whose date 575-600 is not doubtful.

§ 3. The Chālukyas.

The genealogy and the chronology of the Western Chālukyas present no difficulty :



The origin of this dynasty is obscure [the legend given in the "grant of Vira-Choḍa," S. I. I., Vol. 17, page 50, has nothing historical in it]. In 1905, (J. R. A. S., for 1905, page 360) Fleet found out that the hypotheses formed on this subject were all of them baseless. I shall, however, make a remark : the grant of Uṇḍivātika (Ep. Ind., Vol. VIII., page 163) which is probably dated in the first half of the VI century says that the commander of the fort of Harivātsakoṭṭa was a certain Jayasimha (see also Ind. Ant., Vol XXX). Can this Jayasimha be the founder of the Chālukya dynasty ?

Puḷakēśin I., who probably came from a town called Indukānti installed himself about 550 A. D., at Vātāpī (Bādāmi). We have said that this military operation could have been effected only by having defeated the Kadamba king (probably Harivarman) who reigned, with Halsi for capital, over the modern provinces of Kaladgee, Belgaum, and Dharwar. The historical documents say that he performed a horse sacrifice. We know also (Bādāmi insc., Ind. Ant., Vol. III, page 305; Vol. VI, page 363; Vol. X, page 58) that he married Durlabha-

dévi of the Batpūra family. This family lived probably not far from Goa at Révalidvipa (Goa plates; J. B. B. R. A. S., Vol. X., page 348). His eldest son Kirtivarman I. succeeded him in 566-7 A. D.

The inscription of Mahākūṭa (near Bādāmi) [Ind. Ant., Vol. XIX, page 7] says that Kirtivarman gained victories in the following countries : Vaṅga and Aṅga (E. and W. Bengal), Kaṭiṅga, Vaṭṭūra, Magadha, Madraka, Kēraṭa, Gaṅga, Mūshaka, Pāṇḍya, Dīramiṭa, Chōḷiya, Āṇka (the Āluvas or Ālupas, in the N.-E. of Banavāsi) and Vijayantī. Again, the Aihole inscription says that Kirtivarman was a "night of doom to the Nāṣas, the Mauryas and the Kadambas." The Nāṣas probably occupied Nāṣavādi (mentioned in plates of Vikramāditya I) near Bellary and Karnūl districts. The Mauryas were a people of Northern Koṅkan (see Bombay Gazetteer, Vol. I, Part. II., page 282). A stone discovered at Vāda in the Thāna district (see Bombay Gazetteer, Vol. XIV, page 373) mentions the Maurya Seketivarman. We have already spoken of the defeat of the Kadambas a little before 570 A. D. It would appear that Kirtivarman defeated a confederation of Kadamba princes probably Kṛishṇavarman II and his feudatories. In the 12th year of his reign, Kirtivarman had as Yuvamahārāja his young brother Maṅgalēśa; and it is this prince that had one of the caves of Bādāmi dug in the year 500 of the Śūka era, which corresponds to 578 A. D. (Ind. Ant., Vol. III, page 305; Vol. VI, page 363; Vol. X, page 58). Kirtivarman married a princess of the Sēndraka family who was the daughter of Sēnānanda rāja (Chiplūn plates, Ep. Ind., Vol. III, page 51). Of this union was born a son named Puṣakēśin II. This prince was probably very young when his father died and the crown passed to Maṅgalēśa, the brother (or half-brother, Ind. Ant., Vol. XIX., page 15) of Kirtivarman I.

The inscription of Mahākūṭa which is dated in the 5th year of the reign of Maṅgalēśa i.e. 601-602 A. D. say (Ind. Ant., Vol. XIX, page 7) that this king vanquished Buddha, and the Nerūr plates (Ind. Ant., Vol. VII., page 166) say that he "put to flight Śaṁkaragaṇa's son Buddharāja and killed Swāmīrāja of the Chālikiya family (see also Ind. Ant., Vol. VI, page 363). We have already spoken of the defeat of Buddharāja when studying the Kaṭachuri dynasty. The Aihole inscription (Ep.

Ind., Vol. VI, No. 1, page 8) says that Maṅgalēśa "took in marriage the Fortune of the Kaṭachchuris" and seized upon the isle of Rēvatī; it was perhaps in this island that Swāmirāja reigned. The Aihole inscription adds: "when his elder brother's son named Puṣakēśin had formed the resolution to wander abroad as an exile, that Maṅgalēśa abandoned together with the effort to secure the kingdom for his own son, both his kingdom and his life". This event took place in 608 A. D. Puṣakēśin was formally crowned in the following year.

The Aihole inscription (Ep. Ind. Vol. VI, page 4) gives us the following description of the exploits of Puṣakēśin II.

Two chiefs, Āppāyika and Gōvinda having tried to conquer the country to the north of the river Bhima, one is repulsed and the other submits and becomes the ally of the Chālukyas. Puṣakēśin then lays siege to Vanavāsī and subdues the Gaṅgas, the Ālupas who reigned in this region, as also the Mauryas of Koṅkan. He then besieges Purī, an important town on the coast of the western ocean (Arabian sea); the Lāṭas, the Mālavas and the Gūrjaras surrender as well as the inhabitants of the Vindhya, the banks of the Rēvā and the three Mahārāshtras. In the North-east, Puṣakēśin subdues the kingdoms of Kālīṅga and Kōsaḷa. He seizes the citadel of Pishtapura and fights near the waters of the Kunāḷa; then he turns to the south, routs the king of the Pallavas (Mahēndravarmān I.) of Kāñchi, crosses the Kāvērī, causes "prosperity to the Chōḷas, Kēralas, Pāṇḍyas" and returns to his capital Bādāmi. These exploits took place at the beginning of his reign, circ. 609 A. D. The conquest of the Telugu country comprising the districts of Godavari, Krishna and Guntur is a landmark in the history of the Deccan, owing to the creation of an important kingdom, that of the Eastern Chālukyas.

It is noteworthy that the Aihole inscription which bears the date 634 A. D. makes no mention of king Harsha Vardhana. The documents posterior to it mention the victory gained by Puṣakēśin over Harsha. It is probable that it was about the year 636 A. D. that Harsha vanquished Dhruvasēna II, king of Valabhi; Harsha wished to extend his conquests much more, but was stopped by Puṣakēśin. This event probably took place about 637 or 638 A. D.

We close the "Ancient History of the Deccan" with the year 610 A. D. At this epoch, Puṣakeśin II. has become master of the whole of the Deccan ; the Pallavas have been repulsed in the south, and all the other old dynasties have been destroyed. From 610 A. D. the documents have become more numerous, and chronology has become more precise ; we enter into a new epoch in the history of the Deccan, the middle ages.

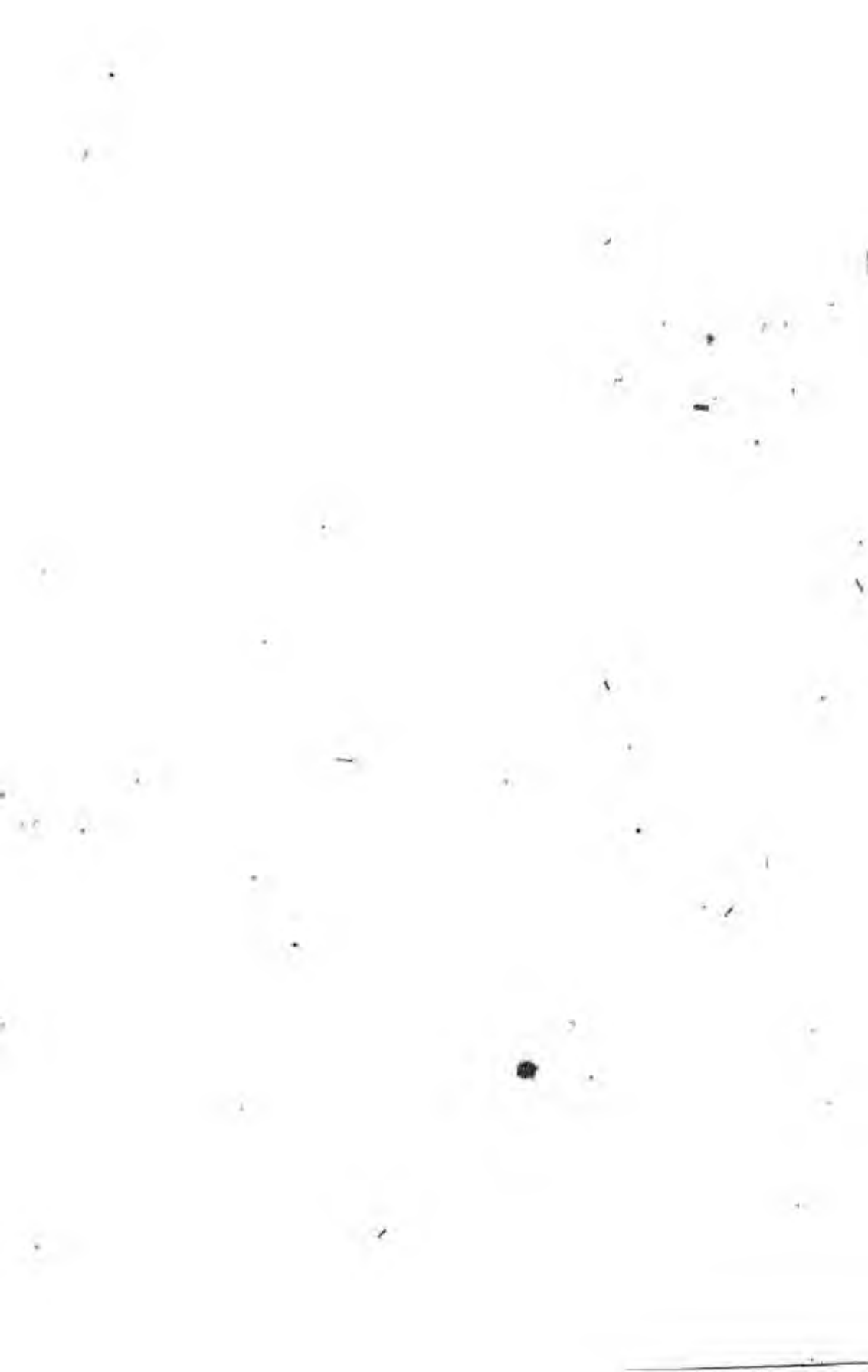
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